Daily Report

Latin America

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Further on Group of Eight Summit Conclusion

De la Madrid Closing Speech

PY3110154088 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1340 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Speech by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid at the closing ceremony of the Group of Eight summit in Punta del Este, Uruguay—live]

[Text] Mr President of Uruguay, Julio Maria Sanguinetti; my friends, the presidents of Latin American countries; Latin American fellow countrymen:

I find it a great honor to have been appointed to speak on behalf of all the presidents at the closing ceremony of this second meeting of the permanent mechanism of consultation and political accord.

President Sanguinetti, I find it very fortunate that this second meeting for the development and strengthening of our mechanism was held in Uruguay. This nation is a nation of free people, champions of democracy, with a strong republican disposition and a traditional interest in Latin American integration.

We have felt the friendliness of the Uruguayan people. President Sanguinetti has displayed great wisdom and ability in organizing and managing this meeting. Latin America will forever remember the Punta del Este summit as an example of common will and our people's desire for unity.

Messrs presidents, ladies and gentlemen, after examining the progress made by this mechanism, this group, we have confirmed the political significance and the historical scope of our commitment. Latin America is experiencing difficult times, but also times of renewal and creativity, times of ingenuity and solidarity.

This is not the first time in our history that we Latin Americans have had to overcome serious obstacles. These are times of adversity, but also times of challenges and opportunities. Our common goals allow us decisively and effectively to face these challenges and take advantage of the opportunities.

The times when Latin American unity was a mere piece of rhetoric, a utopian desire, are long gone. We are not forsaking the legacy of idealism that Jose Enrique Rodo [Uruguayan philosopher and writer] left to all Latin Americans—the idea that the spirit is more important than material interests. There is no doubt that we Latin Americans have managed to combine idealism and pragmatism.

In recent years the industrialized countries have reached unprecedented levels of well-being, wealth, and technological development. At the same time, the large powers have attained a level of political understanding that is beginning to change the structure of international relations. East and West are opening up new channels for understanding and coexistence. Undoubtedly, because of the killing power of nuclear weapons, this understanding is necessary more than ever before for the survival of mankind.

There is a trend, however, that we Latin Americans cannot accept. The northern countries are trying once again to set the rules for global economic development and the new terms for military and political competition.

We categorically reject the trend among the great powers to treat the world as some sort of condominium to be used to their advantage.

Our peoples are now experiencing the harsh injustices and shortcomings of an unfair international economic system that excludes us from the decision-making process concerning key international political and economic issues.

The current geopolitical trend toward the establishment of blocs and multipolarity is obvious. At the same time, the nations that stay behind run the risk of being unable to retain their independence and sovereignty. We must reiterate that, on our own, each one of us is weak, and that isolated we will be unable to participate advantageously in the new currents of change.

We must overcome Latin American isolation. We need each other. Let us address our efforts to facing the challenges of the new world through our internal strength and also through collective strength. Unity will give us the answers to the conflicts that plague our region.

Latin America is also proposing joint and decisive actions on key international issues: the foreign debt and financing of development; trade and protectionism; regional integration and scientific and technological cooperation; and strengthening of our cultural identity and historical heritage, which is the basis of our quest for integration.

As far as the foreign debt is concerned, we are doing what we are asking from others. We have launched a process to resolve the debt among Latin American countries under terms and conditions that reflect both the shared responsibility of creditors and debtors and our political will to resolve the debt problems fairly and responsibly. Thus, we have the moral and political right to demand similar treatment from our creditors.

Latin America has not forgotten that development and well-being of our societies are at the top of our list of priorities. We want to build more prosperous societies, so that we can overcome the severe injustices that still plague us—injustices we are quite willing to recognize.

We must therefore adjust the servicing of the debt to the debtor countries' ability to pay, by setting relative or absolute limits to the servicing of the debt and reducing its amount.

We Latin Americans are aware that our development is up to us, that it depends on the domestic efforts of each country and on the common effort of Latin America. The foreign debt, however, is a heavy burden blocking our path to development. The international economic order does not respond in kind to the domestic efforts of our societies to make significant adjustments and structural reforms.

The Uruguayan round of GATT talks is an important effort of the international community in the quest for a new system of trade. To increase our influence and bargaining power, our mechanisms will conduct talks and seek agreements capable of guaranteeing respect for the principle of special, differential, and more favorable treatment for developing countries.

We reject equal treatment because we are not equal. We shall join efforts with the will to fight the protectionism that prevents us from constructively participating in the international markets, from reactivating our economic development, and from fulfilling our financial obligations. Moreover, we want to do all this within the framework of sustained growth. We do not seek this growth merely to accumulate assets. We want growth to provide more jobs and dignity for Latin Americans.

Our quest for integration is proof of our desire for unity and solidarity. This is the guiding principle of our political actions, and it will help us overcome obstacles and meet challenges. We have committed ourselves to strengthening the multilateral efffort for integration without jeopardizing regional or bilateral agreements. Our efforts, however, must not be directed only to increasing trade among ourselves. We must try to make our economies truly complement each other and make sure that the ensuing benefits are distributed fairly among all.

We Latin Americans must also establish guidelines for action that would give encouragement and preferential treatment to countries of lesser relative development.

We must not forget that cultural affinities and common historical roots are the basis for integration. We must, therefore, strengthen the Latin American culture, taking advantage of the plurality of our societies and the varied and rich imagination of our men and women.

We must encourage our people's mutual knowledge and increase the bonds between them, allowing them to get closer and share the experience of others. In the final analysis, cultural and historical bonds constitute the most solid basis for the Latin American fatherland that we all long for.

There is no doubt in my mind that culture constitutes the only true border.

Messrs presidents, our main commitment is to peace, development, and democracy. Through this commitment we merely express the will of the free peoples we represent. These goals have ruled our talks, have encouraged our efforts, and have opened new ways of enhancing the collective awareness of our unity.

We have also insisted that national and regional security can only be attained through freedom, democracy, and full exercise of sovereignty. We reject national security doctrines based on repression, on suppression of freedom, or on limited democracy.

Freedom, democracy, social justice, and the rule of law are inalienable conditions for the development we all long for. We do not want well-being at any cost. We want development, and for us development implies individual and collective freedom.

We Latin Americans are able and willing to resolve our problems without foreign interference. We do not want to be anyone's provinces. We want to be ourselves and follow our own political formulas. Therefore, we have said that self-determination and total respect for the autonomy of the people are the foundation of our life together.

Reason and dialogue have always been our response to power and egoism. Reason and dialogue form the contribution we can offer to solving internatinal problems. This is the spirit of the Uruguay Declaration that we signed today.

The disagreements between North and South should be resolved on our continent within this Latin American spirit and disposition.

Let us not miss the opportunity. History is moving ahead at a fast pace and we cannot fall behind.

At the end of this meeting marked by solidarity and commitment, we can say that our efforts toward understanding and cooperation are making headway vigorously, respecting history, and following a political plan. If democracy spreads, if understanding broadens, and if cooperation increases among our countries, it is not because we who govern have decided that it should be so, but because it is the will of peoples who believe in their right to a more dignified, more sovereign, and more noble role in history.

This mechanism was born from ourselves. No one has convoked it. No one has sought supremacy within it. This mechanism developed from bilateral talks that have been growing and spreading throughout Latin America over the past few years.

Many times, when talking among us, we have agreed on the need to meet, but at first we cautiously wondered why we were meeting. Finally these talks provided us with the real answer: We must meet to unite; we must talk because dialogue will strengthen our wills, hone our ideas, and allow us to set courses of action.

Our mechanism has made headway. Undoubtedly it will continue to do so, because it is the will of our nations to have a say in their own destiny. Latin America is not willing to resign itself to being a mere passive object of history; it wants to shape its own destiny.

Today, we reaffirm our commitment to building a future of freedom, social progress, independence, and greatness. The challenges facing us are great; the resources available to us are scarce. Only our people's desire for change and a better future will keep us on the path toward unity, integration, and a fraternal and shared development.

This is the last time that I come to meeting of this kind and for me it has been a privilege to work and make friends with such distinguished Latin American statesmen.

Our countries are not only facing crises; they are in a process of renewal, they are making structural reforms, they are developing their democracies. There are risks. There are enemies of democracy. There are reactions from the old populists. There is resistance from vested interests. However, I reaffirm my absolute faith in Latin Americans, in our history, in our values. I reaffirm my faith in the Latin Americans, in our history, in our values. I reaffirm my faith in the Latin American statesmen who I have been privileged to work with and who have awarded me their friendship. Thank you very much. [applause]

Sanguinetti Addresses Closing

PY3110182988 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1403 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Speech by Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti at the closing ceremony of the Group of Eight summit in Punta del Este, Uruguay—live]

[Text] Messrs Presidents: First let me express my happiness and gratitude, as well as that of the Uruguayans, especially the warm-hearted inhabitants of Maldonado Department—one of the cradles of our Spanish language—who have received you as friends, neighbors, and fraternal leaders whom they accept as their own.

I want to thank you especially for your attitude and the privilege of having been able to share these 3 days of reflections.

The people have been able to see that we all share points of view. We feel that we are at a moment of history in which changes are taking place that demand, challenge, and encourage us to find new solutions.

There is no doubt that the phenomenon of political flexibility, which is bringing peace between the military suppowers, marks the end of this century.

Nor is there any doubt that international trade has grown, although in a distorted manner, and that this phenomenon also marks the end of the century. In the past century, which was shaken by social problems, the organization of a modern state was regarded as the liberating solution to resolve those problems and to give security to workers who emerged from the Industrial Revolution and demanded justice as human beings. A century later that same modern state has become a heavy burden that must be transformed and reorganized. All governments, from the most liberal to the Marxist, today seek alternatives to change this unwieldy apparatus, which must be modified.

All our countries are struggling within that framework, and schematic and extremist points of view naturally surface. On one hand, there is a sort of conservative utopia that maintains that the state must be knocked down, destroyed, and practically dissolved, because that is how the people, the individual citizen, will find liberation. We know that this is not so and that we must make a clear distinction between a more free and open market economy, which is best suited to handle resources, and the state that we must defend. That state will be in charge of fighting drug traffickers, as Colombia and Peru are doing bravely. That state will have to defend the Amazon from attacks against the ecology. That state will have to defend the citizens from terrorism. That state will have to defend the social security values, which our people and our state have not renounced, which we constantly reassert, for which we struggle.

We have pulled out of the statist utopia, in which the state administrated goods and favors and was the miraculous generator of wealth. Let us not fall into the conservative utopia of weakening the state. We believe that the state is identified with a conception of development that today is reflected in this document. We all feel that the issue is really to reconcile democratic principles with economic development and that we must do this in a balanced way, in a harmonious way, without any distortions that may discriminate against anyone.

We are aware of the foreign and domestic threats and limitations, because the conservatives who fear change have made themselves heard. Those seeking a populist policy are demanding the distribution of wealth that does not exist. They want the governments to perform miracles, when they are well aware that these governments must confront crises in a serious and responsible manner. They also incite the people to confront these

governments that honestly and realistically tell their people the truth about their economies. The governments responsibly go out and defend their people, to whom the prophets of false illusions first make easy promises and later resort to authoritarianism when they cannot keep them.

Every day we reassert the same concept of democracy that the presidents here invoke, not as mere rhetoric, but rather as a daily commitment. Everyone—not only the people of Latin America but also of Europe and the United States—knows that it has not been easy to defend democracy here as we have done. It will not be easy to project it toward the future, either, but we are doing it in a responsible, resolute, and worthy manner. We have also defended and will continue to defend citizens' political freedom and their human rights in the midst of economic difficulties, shortages, and limitations.

Therefore, let us struggle against the restrictions imposed on us by the world, but let us also struggle against those forces that stem from within our own countries, not always with ill-intentions, but undoubtedly as expressions of times long past. We are now in an era of political flexibility, we are now in an era of the state's reorganization, we are now in an era of changes in the social security system, we are now in an era during which markets must open for greater competition, and we must prepare for this, as all the countries represented here are doing. Latin America must and will be present at the end of this historic phase that marks the end of this century.

There are always people who try to minimize the results of events like the one we have just held. There are always those who demand spectacular decisions and then accuse us of falling into the well-known Latin American habit of rhetoric or who, on the contrary, voice skepticism by criticizing us for not making spectacular decisions.

We are affirming our principles, strengthening the path taken, showing the world that this political movement is the mechanism for understanding and consultation that surfaced 1 and ½ years ago in the midst of skepticism. We are demonstrating that it represents a political reality. What was not acknowledged 1 year ago is now ackowledged; it is a political reality that we must continue discussing. We cannot help but mention the statements and messages we have received in these past few days.

The fact that the president of France has submitted a financial proposal clearly shows us that this political movement is neither a utopia nor a circumstantial alliance, but a political reality and a tool we will not give up and must continue to strengthen.

This tool, which undoubtedly marks a historical phase in Latin America's political life, today informs the great sectors of the world that it is beginning a new dialogue. We are not only issuing declarations of principles; we are taking political actions, not for confrontation but rather to seek a new path through construction, dialogue, and the frank discussion of our feelings and our problems.

Next year France will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution, whose principles so profoundly inspired the Latin American revolution, principles which spread the philosophy that man is the center of the universe.

The United States also recently celebrated the 200th anniversary of its revolution, inspired by the same philosophy, a philosophy that continues to prevail and encourage the people of the Americas. In 1992, Spain and Latin America will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the adventure of the discovery of this continent and the beginning of this civilization. In 500 years of civilization, Latin America has forged its own destiny. Our civilization, in accordance with the values of world philosophy, has our characteristics.

Our civilization is based on respect for people, on brotherhood. In our civilization a personal sense of honor is held in great esteem. What sometimes appears to be a sign of backwardness and seems outdated is, nevertheless, a distinction we will never relinquish: one's word is trusted; the cult of honorability; the significance of friendship, which is inherent in all Latin American men and women regardless of differences and historical circumstances. For identical reasons, this civilization is not acting in the political arena as a circumstantial alliance, as an occasional expression of seven presidents who happen to agree on a declaration platform. These same reasons motivate us to proceed with this political action, and today we are out to seek solutions, to clamor for dialogue that is not only new, but respectful and mature as well. We want to talk about development, its limitations and potentials. We want to talk about speeding up the dismantling of mechanisms of protectionism that hobble the possibilities for free trade.

It makes no sense that we are asked to open our economies, on the one hand, while mechanisms of protectionism are raised on the other hand. We must work for a world of open markets in a universal sense. We have to find financing for our development, because everybody knows that development calls for genuine investments, that there is no development without financial help and access to technology. Therefore, we have to raise the topic of the foreign debt as a basically limiting factor for our development. We are not obsessed with the debt. Sometimes our proposals are depicted to make us look like a choir of beggards. That is not so.

Not long ago, Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez said that the stock of the debt must be reduced and that solutions must be sought in that direction. French President Francois Mitterrand has said that it is necessary to establish a mechanism to finance the servicing of interest payments. Today we will begin work, and we will continue to work until our economy ministers meet in Brazil

in the near future, on proposals which we do not intend to impose but discuss as a contribution to a dialogue from which solutions must necessarily emerge. If solutions are not forthcoming, we will pay dearly for this failure. This must be stated clearly.

In 1918, the world signed a peace treaty in Versailles, which led to a new conflict and catastrophe. An aristocratic and virtually unkown British Treasury official, Keynes, wrote a voluminous memorandum entitled The Economic Consequences of Peace, in which he proved that the financial situation on which that peace was based was not viable. The world then lived through Nazism and Fascism, precisely because the financial conditions made it impossible to maintain the peace. Today, we want peace and security. And because we want to have peace and security, we must seek clear, open, and frank solutions to the problems of protectionism, financial flows, access to technology, and the foreign debt, which continues to be a limiting factor.

Today, our countries must not be confronted with the dilemma of demanding a reduction in the debt, a reduction that is already operating on the market because the debt is already being sold and negotiated at lower than nominal values, that makes them ineligible for financial flows to sustain their development. Or vice versa, those who aspire to secure financial flows must not ask for a reduction in the debt. These are the topics that we must discuss, the topics we must take to the negotiating table, the topics that we must associate with the political future of our continent. The challenge of development is the challenge of democracy.

We do not believe, as some simplistically say, that democracy is a luxury for developed countries.

Even if we are poor, we will still be democrats. Even when we face a crisis and are threatened in many ways, as is the case today, Latin American has never relinquished its democratic convictions. It has never done that, even in the worst times of its history, or when its freedoms faced the worst moments of crisis. At such times and moments, our people have always revived the flame of democracy to carry it forward as a torch. This is also the topic of democracy. Here, in the countries of those who feel like guardians of our civilization, in the countries of those who share a spiritual vision of life, in the countries of those who uphold the idea that man is the primary objective of the state, we have to realize that these values are also at stake at this moment. We have to realize that the state apparatus must serve that political concept of life. This philosophy is also at stake here.

We say this not as a threat that changes are coming, but as recognition of problems that must be faced. We are preparing ourselves for this dialogue, we are open, and we are making a call here. This is no time for irascibility or complacency. This is no time for arrogance or humiliation. This is a time for maturity. As we have said, we have begun a dialogue here in the exercise of our freedom, and thus, we neither offend nor do we fear. Thank you very much. [applause]

De la Madrid News Conference

PY3110145888 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Oct 88

[News conference by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid at the close of the Group of Eight presidential summit in Punta del Este, Uruguay on 29 October—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Mr President of Mexico Miguel de la Madrid, you are traveling to Cuba in the next few hours. I would like to ask you about the objectives of your trip. Last year in Acapulco there was a proposal by the Group of Eight regarding the need to bring Cuba into the process of Latin American integration. What effect will this stand on the part of the Group of Eight have on the regional integration organizations, such as ECLA?

[De la Madrid] My visit to Cuba, which will begin in the next few hours, is part of an uninterrupted process of diplomatic, political, economic, and cultural relations between Mexico and Cuba. The friendship between Cuba and Mexico goes back to the origin of the process that created our nations.

Mexican relations with Cuba are based on the traditional foreign policy principles of respect for the self-determination of people and nonintervention. In the last few years Mexico has advocated a program of dialogue and cooperation with Cuba. The cultural, scientific, technological, economic, commercial, and financial exchanges between the two countries have increased.

Mexico continues to advocate the need to have Cuba back in the inter-American system. We realize that there are obstacles and difficulties and that this process will be gradual, but we maintain the same position. We hope that in the near future there will be greater rapprochement between Cuba and the other Latin American countries.

We also hope that the profound differences between Cuba and the United States will be resolved with dignity and respect for the Cuban people, in accordance with the principles of international law, which are observed by Latin Americans.

The rapprochement of Cuba with the other Latin American countries has been taking place for several years. Cuba belongs to several Latin American organizations. We advocate that this rapprochement be based on respect for sovereignty, self-determination of people, nonintervention, and respect for political and economic

pluralism. Cuba is different from the majority of the Latin American countries, but Cuba must still be considered our brother. [applause] [end De La Madrid remarks] [passage omitted]

Group of 8 Finance Ministers To Meet in Rio

PY2910120288 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Report from Uruguay by correspondent Lourival Macedo]

[Text] The finance ministers of the seven member countries of the permanent mechanism for consultation and political agreement among Latin American countries will meet before the end of the year in Rio de Janeiro. They will prepare a specific plan for the renegotiation of the foreign debt.

This decision was adopted during a meeting of the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, and Uruguay [six countries as heard] and their respective finance ministers.

In the Rio de Janeiro meeting, the finance ministers will study mechanisms for joint actions to reduce the volume of the foreign debt of the Latin American countries.

President Sanguinetti reported that the Group of Eight will reply to a letter sent by French President Francois Mitterrand, who proposed transforming the poor countries' debt into bonds for their negotiation in the market, with discounts.

President Jose Sarney and the other six presidents who are participating in the meeting praised Mitterrand's letter, but said: We must draft our own plan.

Economic issues, the foreign debt issue in particular, were the main subject discussed by the presidents this morning.

They had lunch on board the ship "Capitan Miranda" at the Uruguayan Navy Yacht Club, and in the afternoon they held their third work meeting at the Categrill Country Club. Today they discussed social issues affecting the continent, Latin American integration, and drug trafficking problems.

The summit will end tomorrow with the signing of the Punta del Este joint declaration.

De la Madrid Cited on Drug Trafficking, Debt

PA3110041188 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 27 Oct 88 p 3

[Text] Montevideo, 26 Oct—The problem of drug trafficking has become an issue that threatens our countries' sovereignty, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid said today. He added that the economic power that certain groups have obtained through this illicit trade has permitted them to form armies, create their own distribution networks, and openly challenge established governments.

The president said there are even "links between the drug traffickers and the movements that seek to destabilize our countries." Therefore, he said, each country must struggle to preserve its full sovereignty in the fight against drug trafficking.

The Mexican president made these statements during an impromptu news conference with only four Uruguayan newsmen, three of whom lived in Mexico as political refugees.

During the news conference, De la Madrid again referred to the problem of the debt. He said a moratorium would not be a solution for Mexico because, he said, to declare an economic war "seems to us to be somewhat of a rhetorical gesture" that would seriously harm our interests.

The news conference took place this morning in one of the rooms of the Victoria Plaza Hotel in Montevideo. It was the last official activity carried out by the president as part of his state visit to Uruguay.

De la Madrid said drug trafficking, along with drug abuse, has become a matter of great concern throughout the world. He said practically no country has been spared these degenerative phenomena of contemporary culture.

He emphasized that drug trafficking is a crime with international repercussions; therefore, much broader systems of cooperation must be established to combat it at its roots.

Similarly, De la Madrid said this crime has economic, social, and political implications that must be analyzed by those people who are indirectly affected, such as peasants.

"I believe we cannot accept, from an ethical viewpoint, that drug trafficking should be considered an element of economic welfare," he said.

On the debt, De la Madrid said Latin American countries share the belief that large-scale reforms are needed in the international economic system. He added that we need help to emerge from this decade of stagnation and inflation that has eroded the rate of development and even the standard of living in our countries.

Asked about the viability of a joint moratorium being declared by debtor countries, De la Madrid said that is not his government's position, because in 1982, Mexico had to resort to a negotiated moratorium, and it resulted in serious damage to Mexico's economy.

Mexico believes, he said, that the proper path is not a unilateral moratorium, but negotiations, because, he said, with the debt we use the same principle that we use in foreign policy.

On the issue of Panama, De la Madrid said Mexico maintains its traditional position in support of the self-determination of the Panamanian people. It rejects any foreign interference and, he said, we have refrained from putting a label on the present Panamanian Government. We hope the Panamanian people will soon find ways to fully restore their democratic system, he added. De la Madrid expressed confidence that Panama will be able to return to the Group of Eight in the next few months.

On the Central American situation, he said the Contadora and Support Groups hope to see peace negotiated diplomatically among the countries of the area, with the support and understanding of countries outside the region that are involved in the conflict.

On this basis, he said, we Latin Americans would like to sponsor a large-scale program of international support for the economic and social development of Central American peoples, which is basically at the root of the conflict.

De la Madrid said that although they represent 80 percent of the Latin American population, the Contadora and Support Groups do not aspire to replace the OAS or any other inter-American or Latin American organization.

Cuba

Perez de Cuellar May Intervene in 4-Way Talks

FL0111124288 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar seems to have decided to intervene directly in the stalled quadripartite talks on southwest Africa.

Perez de Cuellar expressed his concern in an interview with the Paris newspaper LE FIGARO. He said that Pretoria's attempt to establish a link between the presence of Cuban forces in Angola and Namibia's independence is unacceptable and violates UN Resolution 435.

Mozambican President Undergoes Surgery in Havana

FL0111122988 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano underwent prostate surgery in Havana, and is in satisfactory condition. It was officially reported that the Mozambican leader underwent surgery in Havana's medical-surgical research center.

Chissano arrived in Cuba several days ago on a private visit.

Mexican President De la Madrid Visits Officially

Cited on Ties, 'Rapprochement'

FL3110131088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid will arrive in Havana this afternoon on an official visit.

The Mexican leader is responding to an invitation extended by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers.

The population of Havana will give a warm and friendly welcome to the distinguished visitor and the delegation accompanying him.

In remarks at Punta del Este, Uruguay, President De la Madrid said the following:

My next visit to Cuba is part of a process of uninterrupted diplomatic, political, economic, and cultural relations between Mexico and Cuba.

The brotherhood between Cuba and Mexico, continued the Mexican leader, goes back to the origins of our nations. Mexico's relations with Cuba have been based on traditional foreign policy principles, the Mexican president added. We have simultaneously maintained the principle of respect for the people's self-determination and, as a result, the principle of non-intervention, he said.

Over the past few years, Mexico has followed a program of dialogue and cooperation with Cuba, continued De la Madrid. Cultural, scientific, and technological exchanges have increased, he said, as well as economic, trade, and financial relations.

Mexico continues to stress the importance of readmitting Cuba to the inter-American system, he said. We are familiar with the obstacles and difficulties and we know that the process will be slow, added De la Madrid, but we adhere to this opinion.

We hope that the future will bring a greater rapprochement between Cuba and Latin American countries, added the Mexican president. We also hope that a solution to the profound difference that still exists between Cuba and the United States will be found in accordance with the dignity and respect of the Cuban people and in compliance with the principles of international law that we Latin Americans subscribe to, he said.

Cuba's rapprochement with Latin America has been progressing for years, he said. We Latin American countries proclaim that this rapprochement will be complied with by everyone based on respect for sovereignty, the self-determination of the peoples, non-intervention, and political and economic pluralism, said De la Madrid.

In conclusion, the Mexican president said that Cuba is different from the majority of Latin American countries but this does not mean they are not brothers.

Ties 'Exemplarily Mature'

FL3110230088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The official visit of Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, which begins today, has been termed by the leader himself as part of an uninterrupted process of diplomatic, political, economic, and cultural relations. In effect, the definition is accurate. For a third time, Cuba receives in its territory a Mexican chief of state and has always felt very honored by that presence. We (?emphasize) that Cuba will never forget Mexico's gesture of having been the only country in the continent that did not break bilateral relations, almost at the very triumph of the revolution. Mexico, in a dignified gesture that exalted the country in history, acted in line with its (?position) on independence, its purest traditions, and its principles, and it did not bow its head before the shameless imperialist pressures. It is with these feelings that we have always received in our fatherland the representatives of the Mexican people.

Naturally, a presidential visit, regardless of the strength and level of current relations, implies the possibility of strengthening and improving relations in many fields. President De la Madrid's sojourn here could facilitate that strengthening in areas such as commerce, finance, education, culture, and industrial cooperation, among others.

Cuba has always been ready to take those (?joint) steps with Mexico. Our ties are exemplarily mature, and we believe that, sooner or later, there will be an enormous area open for cooperation and the continued improvement of relations in all spheres between our two countries.

Greeted by Castro on Arrival

FL3110184288 [Editorial Report] Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1824 GMT on 31 October begins carrying live coverage from Havana's Jose Marti International Airport of the arrival of Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid.

The establishing shot shows a plane marked "Mexican Air Force" taxiing down the runway. Cuban President Fidel Castro is shown walking up to the plane. PCC Politburo member Vilma Espin is standing next to Castro.

The Mexican president descends from the plane at 1829 GMT and is greeted by Castro with an embrace at the foot of the steps.

Live coverage of the arrival ends at 1829 GMT.

Further on Castro Inauguration of Blood Bank

FL2910042788 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, this afternoon inaugurated Havana City Province's teaching blood bank. This center will service patients from hospitals in the western part of the country, other municipalities in the capital, and the interior of the nation. It will be capable of covering assistance requirements for the next 30 years.

[Begin recording] [Castro] How many workers do you have here?

[Unidentified speaker] Well, what happens is that Santiago....

[Castro, interrupting] I want you to tell me how many.

[Speaker] We have 130 workers.

[Castro] Is that many?

[Speaker] I think so.

[Castro] I want it reduced to 80. Are they wandering around?

[Speaker] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] Do you have workers engaged in multiple assignments?

[Speaker] We have workers with multiple assignments; we have a wide range....

[Castro, interrupting] For 100 donations, with 80 workers, we have a worker per blood donor.

[Speaker] No, but we.... [changes thought] Theoretically, the capacity is 200 donors. That's in theory. In reality, with some experience, we see that we can even reach 350 donors.

[Castro] Eighty workers [words indistinct].

[Speaker] Commander, I think that we should make a tremendous effort to get this institution working as it's....

[Castro, interrupting] No, we have to make a tremendous effort to work every day. It looks like we have to make a tremendous effort to do at least our daily work.

[Speaker] No, no we....

[Castro, interrupting] Don't defend them. I'd like to see, if a capitalist owned this blood bank, how many.... [changes thought] Of course, assuming he doesn't mix the blood with water, dyes, or anything....

[Speaker, interrupting] Of course. We've even had visits from some foreign specialists....

[Castro, interrupting] From where?

[Speaker] From the Soviet Union, from....

[Castro, interrupting] They have more than we have here. [Words indistinct] the Soviet Union and Hungary. [chuckling] Those aren't capitalist countries.

[Speaker] Of course, of course. But....

[Castro, interrupting] You talk to me of foreign visitors. Name one. Have you had any from Switzerland?

[Speaker] No, only from socialist countries. [video shows Castro and unidentified speaker touring blood bank]

[Speaker] The samples are disseminated to make sure they don't have anemia and so forth, to make sure the patients are healthy, and then they pass into this room here [words indistinct]

[Castro] [Words indistinct] a doctor, but in what specialty?

[Speaker] Specialty? His specialty is clinical biochemistry. [video shows Castro speaking with a reporter in a room]

[Reporter] We would like to hear your opinion about this center; we already have one in Santiago de Cuba. Also, it has to coordinate its work with the by-products plant and the hematology institute. What do you think?

[Castro] Well, I myself am trying to get some kind of idea. The impressions I have now are good. I think the center is well built, well completed, and that the staff is well prepared. I also think that the center will have some function as a national reference center, with a given number of workers. I don't have enough information to say whether they've reached optimum. They have less than Santiago. I think they do things in Santiago that they don't do here, and they do things here that they don't do in Santiago.

It seems to me that it is a very [words indistinct] center, a very strategic center. I have tried to grasp all of the center's functions. There you see the SUMA [Ultra-Microanalytic System] which is, perhaps, one of the most expensive pieces of equipment, but it's made in our country. It is used to run tests for hepatitis, AIDS—for everything.

[Reporter] What about the AIDS laboratories we have here?

[Castro] The SUMA has a great role in that, very well trained personnel who are certified, university trained—the SUMA will have a big role. Not only does it produce blood, it produces other things as well, not to mention the different types of blood.

I would say this represents a much larger concept than what is normally associated with a blood bank. Of course it is a costly institution, but one that will guarantee quality in health service.

Gorbachev Praises Cuban, Angolan Peace Efforts
FL2910193688 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev expressed his support for the efforts of Cuba and Angola to attain peace in southwestern Africa through the quadripartite talks with South Africa and the United States.

Gorbachev made these statements after meeting in Moscow with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. Gorbachev also affirmed that the only way to resolve this tense (?situation) is through a political solution.

Soviet Naval Group To Arrive in Havana 3 Nov
FL3110150388 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] A Soviet naval detachment will arrive in the port of Havana on 3 November. The visit coincides with the 71st anniversary of the triumph of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The detachment, which will also visit other ports in the country, is comprised of a submarine detector, a submarine, and a tanker.

The populace will be able to visit the ships on Saturday, 5 November, from 0900 to 1700, and on Sunday afternoon.

Intersputnik Director Receives Award
FL2710164588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] The National Communications Workers Union has conferred the Mario Munoz award on Spartak Kurilov, director general of the Intersputnik system. This high honor was conferred on the head of the via satellite communications system in recognition of his significant contribution to the development of communications in Cuba through this type of advanced technology. Comrade Kurilov is in Cuba attending the 17th meeting of the Intersputnik system being held at Los Helechos Hotel at the Escambray Sierra.

DPRK Presidential Envoy Tours Isle of Youth
FL2710161488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Kim Chang-ho, special envoy of President Kim-Il-song and minister of communications of the DPRK [name and title as received], has toured the Isle of Youth Special Municipality.

[Begin video recording, in progress] ... by Martin Santos, member of the executive committee of the Municipal Assembly of the People's Government, and leaders of the party and organizations of the special municipality. The Korean leader visited the Modelo Prison, where he was given a detailed explanation of the stay of the Moncada attack prisoners in the facility.

A significant moment during the tour was when Comrade Kim met with students and teachers of the Cuban-Korean Friendship School. He toured the school and expressed interest in the lives of the students. [end recording]

Education Minister Tours Dominican Republic

FL2810030588 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] The Cuban delegation visiting the Dominican Republic to participate in the festivities marking the 450th anniversary of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo has toured the Bani area, birthplace of Generalissimo Maximo Gomez.

Fernando Vecino Alegret, Cuban minister of higher education, laid a floral wreath at the birthplace of the man who fought for Cuba's independence. The Cuban minister and the delegation he heads were later declared distinguished visitors at the Bani City Hall.

In speaking to the residents of Bani, Vecino Alegret stressed the traditions of struggle that unite the Cuban and Dominican people. He stressed the example Maximo Gomez set for the two countries. This is evident in work, internationalism, and the fight for the independence of the nations of the Americas, he said.

Pharmaceutical Industry Official in Brazil

FL2710173788 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Enrique Comendeiros, vice minister of pharmaceutical industry of Cuba, is in Brasilia to identify areas of cooperation with Brazil. Comendeiros has already met with Health Minister Borges da Silveira and department technicians.

Health Minister Inspects Mass Check-Up

FL2810021488 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0038 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Public Health Minister Julio Teja Perez is conducting a tour of family doctor centers in Fomento, Sancti Spiritus Province. He is there to check on-going mass examinations to detect occult fecal blood. They are also performing tests to detect colon and cardiovascular diseases, as well as diabetes and other illnesses in supposedly healthy people.

All members of the population over 40 years of age are part of this study which began on 22 October. Teja was accompanied by Jorge Valdes Rodriguez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the PCC in Sancti Spiritus.

The two officials spoke with Dr Bienvenido Gra and Dr Hector Vega of the Gasteroenterology Institute. The doctors are part of the study and said they are satisfied with the results of this massive examination; the first of its kind in our country.

Haiti

Commanding Officer in Artibonite Discharged

FL2810172088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] The General Headquarters of the Haitian Armed Forces announces that five Army majors and one captain—from the same [military academy] class as Major Pierre H. Cherubin—have been discharged. The majors are (Jean Lamy), (Neocles P. Arnet), (Renois Duvernac), (Aurel Frederic), and (Warner Etienne). The captain is (Vilaire Dorval).

Major (Arnet), who was commanding officer of the military department of the Artibonite, has been replaced by Lieutenant Colonel (Dumarsais Romulus). Also, Major (Ernst Prudhomme) has been appointed military commander in northwestern Haiti.

Discharges, Coup Attempt Linked

FL2810232188 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The night before last, the Haitian Army high command retired—discharged—five majors and a captain.

According to various informants, these men were among the most progressive in the Army, particularly (Jean Lamy), the commanding officer of the Cafeteria [police post on the Grande Rue]. He was chosen by the enlisted men, after 17 September.

It is reported that (Lamy) was among the soldiers who refused to obey the order to shoot at the crowd during the demonstrations of the summer of 1987. It is reported that this is why he was transferred from the Dessalines Barracks to the provinces. [passage omitted]

According to several different military sources, these discharges are linked to what the government calls the Beauchard/Jeremie coup d'etat attempt. Several of the officers removed were friends or classmates of Major Pierre H. Cherubin, whom the government fired last week in connection with the 15 October affair. [passage omitted]

Lieutenant Colonel ad honores (Ernst Prudhomme) has been transferred from his position as warrant officer [adjudant], Department of the Police, Port-au-Prince, and made commanding officer of the military department of the Northwest. (Dumarsais Romulus) is to take charge of the Department of the Artibonite.

Several of the officers discharged are said to be, by the enlisted men and the general public, honest and moderate men. Major (Renois Duvernac) and Major (Neocles Arnet) were mentioned, in this connection.

Soldiers from several units whom we contacted on this matter said they are watching, following events.

Enlisted Men Refuse Transfers, Hold Work Stoppage

FL2810215988 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Yesterday morning, the enlisted men of the military hospital in Port-au-Prince effected a work stoppage for the day. It seems the work stoppage took place because three of them had received transfer orders. One of our reporters was there.

[Reporter] The enlisted men of the military hospital effected a work stoppage to protest the transfer orders received by some of them, who were transferred to the provinces, far from the capital. One of the corporals assigned to the hospital told us he knew the Army had its discipline and that Army discipline and hierarchy had to be respected, but the way the hierarchy had transferred the soldiers from the hospital was not fair.

Captain (Magloire Germain), the military hospital's executive, called the enlisted men in and met with them, explaining to them that there was a discipline and a hierarchy that they had to respect. This meeting took place at the hospital.

Meanwhile, Colonel Roland Chavannes, of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] General Headquarters G-2, called Capt (Germain) to have him invite those on strike to talk to him at his office, so that there would be no need to paralyze the hospital.

They told us they had talked among themselves and set a time for this meeting: 1100 that same Tuesday [as heard] morning. They don't know why Colonel (Maurice Duret) decided to transfer the men responsible for the 17 September movement.

The strikers said that such a measure might be taken later on against Sergeant Hebreux. They do not agree with this transfer order, nor do they agree to Col (Duret's) remaining the head of the FADH Health Service.

Let's listen to a corporal at our microphone.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified corporal] Considering that Col (Duret) has taken measures to transfer us—we who participated in, who are responsible for, the 17 September movement—tomorrow he will not merely transfer Sergeant Hebreux; they will deport him from the National Palace, just like Toussaint Louverture was deported from Saint Domingue. So, out of solidarity, precisely to prevent Sgt Hebreux's being deported, we refuse to be transferred. And we also say no to having Col (Maurice Duret) be the director of the Health Service. [passage omitted] [end recording]

According to the latest news we have here at the studio, the meeting was held and everything is back to normal.

5 Discharged From Air Corps for 'Criminal Acts'

FL3110192088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] The commanding officer of the Air Corps informs the general public and the press that five Air Corps soldiers—(Phenelus, Saul); (Jean-Baptiste, Jean Yves); (Lemeus, Thompson); (Valcin, Maxo); and (Budry, Cadichon)—who were denounced in the media for a number of criminal acts, such as the acts committed at LE NOUVELLISTE, which were confirmed by the Air Corps' investigation, have been discharged from the Air Corps. They were discharged because their actions could hurt the honor and prestige of the military institution.

According to a source close to the Air Corps, these enlisted men participated in blocking the road to the north 2 weeks ago. Also, these men have been involved in other acts that people have paid them to commit.

These enlisted men, who might commit still other criminal acts, have in their possession Haitian Armed Forces uniforms, says the press release from the Air Corps. According to Air Corps sources, this note constitutes an order (?to certain people) to stop [pinga] these men, who are out on the streets today.

PNCH: Avril 'Incompetent,' Should Give Up Power

FL2810174588 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The National Christian Party of Haiti [PNCH] says that General Prosper Avril should relinquish power to the court of cassation since he has proven himself to be incompetent as regards disarming the tonton macoutes. [passage omitted]

The PNCH asks Gen Avril, if he is really a patriot and really determined to surmount the national crisis, to hand power over to the court of cassation as provided for in Article 149 of the Constitution. This is not an article that is part of the Constitution's transitory dispositions.

Social Affairs Minister Holds Talks With Unions

FL2810223388 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] An important work meeting was held last Thursday, 20 October, at the conference hall of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The meeting was presided over by Minister Arnold Guerrier and attended by representatives of many employee and union organizations. Discussed at the meeting were the development of new professional relations and the improvement of the living conditions of workers.

Following the discussions, Minister Guerrier proposed some measures to protect workers' rights, particularly in connection with working conditions and union freedoms, in order to create a committee composed of workers, employers, and the government. They are also going to set up the dispositions necessary for this committee to function.

Finally, the minister gave some data on the current social crisis. He also presented an emergency action program to the participants and asked for their help in getting action underway while waiting for the discussions to continue in a future meeting.

Six Killed In Land Quarrels in Artibonite

FL2810221188 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Excerpt] We have learned that in the Artibonite—more precisely, in the l'Estere area—quarrels over land are still causing much trouble. We have a report that people were killed or wounded during arguments. The wounded people were taken to a hospital. Here is our Gonaives correspondent with details.

[Correspondent] It looks as if this land business in the Artibonite is never going to be settled.

At around 1400 yesterday, we noticed much coming and going at La Providence Hospital in Gonaives. What was it all about? Dead and wounded were being brought in from l'Estere. There was a clash between two villages in the area: (Pat Chwal) and (Ti Jardin). The current toll is six dead and eight wounded. This is what we saw at the hospital in Gonaives. It seems that all these people are from the (Ti Jardin) camp. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

St Lucia

Banana Growers Ignore Labor Party Protest Call

FL2710223888 Bridgetown CANA in English 1738 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Oct 27, CANA—Banana growers in St Lucia appear to have disregarded the call from the opposition St Lucia Labour Party to boycott cutting fruit Wednesday, to protest the passage of a bill in parliament calling for the dissolution of the Banana Association's Board of Directors.

A spokesman for the association said that cutting went on as usual Wednesday. "There is no evidence to suggest that this week's tonnage for export would be reduced, as a tour of the major depots suggested that cutting went on as normal," said Kenneth Landers, secretary of the association.

The controversial bill, passed after close to 9 hours of debate, also calls for the postponement of the November 5 annual conference of the association at which the board was expected to be re-elected.

Agriculture Minister Ferdinand Henry said Wednesday that he would soon announce an interim board to run the affairs of the association for the next 12 months.

Addressing a large crowd which assembled outside parliament Tuesday night, the leader of the St Lucia Labour Party Julian Hunte and his deputy, Peter Josie, called on the few farmers present to boycott all cutting until government withdrew the bill. "We will travel throughout the length and breath of the country to spread the word," Josie said.

Prime Minister John Compton has charged that the association was being used to sabotage the industry—which provides St. Lucia's number one export—undermine the government, and to conduct a political campaign among farmers. Opposition members and the SLBGA chairman have countered that Compton and several prominent members of the ruling United Workers Party used the association as a platform to enter politics.

During his presentation to parliament Tuesday, Henry said that the action taken by government was necessary to save the industry from a clique of board members who are involved in "confrontational politics, instead of seeing about the welfare of growers."

He said that the association's debt had risen from $5 million in 1986 to $16 million in 1987 (1 EC dol; 37 U.S. cents).

The minister said that the Banana Act will seek to ensure a proper working relationship between the growers association and government.

Union Protests Banana Act

FL2710232388 Bridgetown CANA in English 2111 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Oct 27, CANA—The unseated chairman of the St Lucia Banana Growers Association (SLBGA) Rupert Gajadhar has written to the president of the Civil Service Association, David Demarque calling for a work stoppage at the SLBGA Castries office Friday. Gajadhar is urging the stoppage to protest his being forced out of office by a new Banana Act approved by the Senate Thursday after being passed in the Lower House Tuesday.

The new law is ostensibly to repel what Prime Minister John Compton says is sabotage of the economically crucial banana industry and to prevent political manipulation of the association.

In a letter dated October 25, Gajadhar called on the CSA for its fraternal solidarity in the wake of the passage of the law, whch he said seeks to undermine the central pillar of democracy. The legislation calls for the immediate dissolution of the board of directors of the privately-run St Lucia Banana Growers Association and the postponement of the November 5 annual conference of delegates of the SLBGA, at which the board was expected to have been re-elected

The new law gives the minister of agriculture the power to dissolve the board and appoint an interim body to oversee the affairs of the association over the next 12 months. Gajadhar said the law "cannot be allowed to come into effect," and urged the CSA chairman to withdraw the workers on Friday and other selected days to be agreed upon.

The clerical staff of the St Lucia Banana Growers Association are members of the Civil Service Association.

When contacted for his reaction to the letter, the CSA president said that matters of this nature are normally dealt with by the committee of trade unions, which groups all public sector unions. Demarque said the request will be put to the committee when it meets on Saturday.

In a related development, the opposition St Lucia Labour Party (SLP) Thursday said that a call for farmers to refrain from cutting their bananas for export is not the official position of the Labour Party. The call came from the deputy political leader, Peter Josie, and a number of farmers whom he addressed Tuesday night outside the House of Assembly while parliament debated the bill.

Stone and bottle throwing followed the passage of the bill and Prime Minister Compton and other government members had to be whisked away under tight police guard.

However a statement from SLP leader Julian Hunte categoricaly denied that his party had ever given this advice to farmers.

"Whereas such statements may have come from the platform of the party during the public meeting it could not represent our official position," Hunte said. "Whereas there are individual farmers who we know have taken the decision of their own accord, we have never tried to influence any decision that they themselves have made. This is a matter which farmers as far as they are concerned reserve the right to take whatever action they deem necessary in the interest of democracy," Hunte added. [sentence as received]

The secretary of the banana association, Kenneth Landers, said that cutting went ahead as usual Wednesday despite the call. "There is no evidence to suggest that this week's tonnage for export would be reduced, as a tour of the major depots suggested that cutting went on as normal," he said.

Trinidad and Tobago

Ex-Minister Humphrey Accuses Robinson of Deceit

FL2610235588 Bridgetown CANA in English
2322 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Oct 26, CANA—Dismissed government Minister John Humphrey lambasted Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and the government for alleged failure to live up to promises contained in the manifest of the ruling party. Humphrey also criticised the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction for seeking to solve the country's problems through external help rather than internal mobilisation of resources.

In a fiery delivery to a special session of parliament, convened to discuss recent flooding across the country, Humphrey took issue with what he claimed was government's failure to implement a plan enunciated in its manifesto. The ex-minister outlined a number of these promises, including infrastructural work in drainage and other areas, the protection and creation of jobs for citizens, investment funds and revolving funds. He accused the prime minister of having "deceived the population" with the manifesto.

In a presentation drowned out at times by asides from NAR parliamentarians, Humphrey attacked Prime Minister Robinson, stating that three times before he was dismissed from office, he had decided to resign because he was frustrated and could not work with Robinson. He described Robinson as "an obstacle" to delivering the promises to the people of Trinidad and Tobago and claimed that the party was the A.N.R. (Robinson's initials) Party and not the NAR party, under which the prime minister had all the power "and the rest are minions."

Citing the recent turnout of about 20,000 persons, which he said was a police estimate, for the Club'88 rally earlier this month, Humphrey said that it had become obvious to the people "that this present regime is incapable of delivering services and are taking us back to the days of colonialism and dependence on external sources." Club'88 is the name given to a group of parliamentarians who were recently fired from the NAR and are moving to set up a political party.

Humphrey attacked Robinson for his recent statement that the people should "hold the fort" because "help is coming." By this, the people are made "to feel helpless as

a nation, depending on the surpluses of another country to help them survive," Humphrey said. He suggested that a government incapable of rallying the resources of a country should resign.

Humphrey was interrupted several times by Robinson and other members who insisted that the former works minister was being "irrelevant."

Works Minister Carson Charles who presented the motion originally brought by Humphrey, acknowledged that the government and citizens were not "adequately equipped and prepared to respond to flooding and other natural disasters" such as occured with the record rainfall of 443 milimeters of rain in October.

He said that the country was fortunate the rain did not continue beyond the time it had, because the country was "virtually sitting ducks" where nothing could have been done further but to evacuate people from affected areas. He urged that politics should be put aside and central and local government, along with self-help activity on a massive scale, was needed to help solve the problem.

Minister Without Portfolio Bhoe Tewarie created another stir in the house and brought forth a rebuke from speaker Nizam Mohammed when he sought permission to make a statement on a matter which he said had received publicity in the media.

In an apparent reference to this week's high court award of TT60,000 dollars (one TT dollar; 23.5 cents U.S.) to speaker Mohammed for a libellous letter written by Michael Guptar to the prime minister, the parliamentarian also sought to have Mohammed take leave of his chair while the matter was discussed. Mohammed said that at a meeting in his chambers he had indicated to the member that the matter could not be heard because it was too late in the day and because today was a special sitting of the house and the matter could wait until the Friday sitting.

Mohammed said he had no idea the member would raise the matter further and added : "I will not abdicate my responsibilities as speaker nor will I be intimidated".

Prime Minister Robinson said he would make a statement on the same matter when the house meets on Friday.

Salinas de Gortari Meets With Allende's Widow

PA3110230088 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 28 Oct 88 p 2

[Text] Hortensia Bussi de Allende has said after visiting Mexican president-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari that Mexico will not resume diplomatic relations with Chile as long as Chile has an authoritarian and criminal regime and does not return to democracy.

Allende was asked if her assertion stemmed from a position held by the president-elect and she said "yes." Allende explained that she visited Salinas de Gortari "to brief him on our trip to Chile and the victory in the 5 October plebiscite."

Allende said the return to democracy has begun in her homeland. "A very inmportant door has been opened even though Pinochet is extending deadlines and postponing the recognition of his defeat. He is doing everything possible to stay in power even though the people have repudiated him."

She said the opposition is closely united and the 16 parties are joining efforts to back a single presidential candidate. She added the candidate will most likely be a moderate; specifically, Christian Democratic Party leader Patricio Aylwin.

The widow of the late President Salvador Allende was asked if Clodomiro Almeyda, who was foreign minister during the Allende administration, could be a viable candidate. She answered: "Not for the time being; he has to be from the center."

Both Mrs Allende and her daughter Isabel agreed that "it is very nice to know that Salvador Allende is still present in Chile. His ideas and the respect and love for him are still in the people's minds and hearts. The young people, who were children when he governed and did not get to know his ideas, are the ones who admire him the most."

Iranian Official Invites Mexico To Open Embassy

PA2910044288 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 Oct 88 pp 4-A, 39-A

[Excerpts] Mohammad Jawad Larijani, Iranian under secretary of foreign relations, who concluded a visit to Mexico at the head of the first Iranian delegation to visit Mexico in the past decade, has said that there is no "crude oil war" among oil-producing countries. There is instead an "irrational, unfair market" that favors the large hydrocarbon consumers, that is, the industrialized countries, which buy oil at lower and lower prices and export at higher and higher prices. He also said Mexico can establish an embassy in Tehran whenever it wishes.

During a conversation with EXCELSIOR on 24 October, Larijani also commented on the peace process initiated with Iraq to end the so-called Persian Gulf war. He said the cease-fire agreed upon by the two warring nations is "an important achievement." He regretted, however, that the process has stagnated because of Bagdad's "delaying tactics." [passage omitted]

Regarding bilateral relations, he said cooperation between Iran and Mexico is possible in many areas that should be explored. These areas include trade, oil industry, agriculture, political affairs, and cultural exchange. [passage omitted]

Larijani also said he could not achieve all he had hoped to achieve during his visit since he became ill shortly after arriving in Mexico City. Although he did not specify the nature of his illness, he said he spent 3 days in the hospital there.

His illness prevented him from meeting with Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda and visiting President Miguel de la Madrid. Both Sepulveda and De la Madrid left the country to attend a Group of Eight meeting in Punta del Este, Uruguay. Larijani, however, talked with Fernando Rosenzweig, Mexican under secretary for foreign relations.

As a result of these talks with his Mexican counterpart, several Mexican delegations and industrial groups will soon visit Tehran. This will pave the way for the return of a Mexican ambassador to Tehran. [passage omitted]

Trade Balance To Register $2.5-Billion Surplus

PA2910193288 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Luis Bravo Aguilera, Mexican deputy finance and public credit secretary, has reported that the Mexican trade balance will register more than a $2.5-billion surplus in 1988. Bravo added that although there is a slight slowdown in the overall Mexican economy, the trade balance is not in the red.

Bravo said that despite the drop in oil exports, Mexican oil sales abroad this year were 4 percent higher than in 1987. He added that Mexican nonpetroleum exports increased 20 percent, while exports of manufactured goods increased 40 percent. Bravo said that recently most imports have been capital goods, which strengthens our productive system.

Government To Request IMF, World Bank Loan

PA2810162288 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Report by Gloria Espinosa Green]

[Text] According to Finance and Public Credit Under Secretary Francisco Suarez Davila, the bridge loan granted to Mexico will only serve as standby support until negotiations conclude for two financial transactions that will total almost $3 billion.

Suarez Davila reported that a $400-million compensation loan has ben requested from the IMF to counteract the drop in petroleum prices. Mexico has also requested a loan package from the World Bank for over $2.5 billion, which will be used in supporting economic recovery and strengthening public enterprise. The loan will also be employed in the fertilizer, steel, and electrical energy industries and in the private sector's industrial reconversion:

[Begin recording] We are aiming primarily for a peaceful government transition. [end recording]

In his opening speech at the annual finance executives' assembly, Suarez Davila reported the current domestic debt amounts to 50 trillion pesos. He added that the debt has registered an actual decrease of 25 percent so far this year. Davila also reported that Mexico's trade balance registered an accumulated surplus of $2.5 billion in September.

Police Seize 5 Tons of Cocaine in Chihuahua
PA2810211288 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1959 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] One of the largest cocaine seizures in history occurred early today when the Mexican Army and the Federal Judicial Police confiscated 5 tons of pure cocaine in several caves on the Buenaventura farm, San Lorenzo, in northern Chihuahua, a short distance from the U.S. border.

The drug cache, which could have a street value of $250 million, supposedly landed in Mexico aboard seven Turbo Commander aircraft owned by the so-called Medellin drug cartel. No one has reportedly been detained so far in connection with the seizure.

Mexican authorities have seized 13 tons of cocaine so far this year and 33 tons within the last 6 years.

El Salvador

Vargas, Others Reassigned in Military Reshuffle

PA3110233988 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 31 Oct 88 pp 12, 55

[Text] Colonel Mauricio Vargas, one of the top-ranking chiefs of the Armed Forces General Staff, has been named commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade in eastern San Miguel Department.

Vargas, who has been chief of operations (Department 3) for the past 2 years, will fill the vacancy left by Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, the new chief of staff.

A professor of military strategy and now commander of the garrison in the most war-torn part of the country, Vargas feels that his new assignment will be nothing new for him since he was formerly commander in San Francisco Gotera, Morazan.

Both Ponce and Vargas are considered prominent members of the Military Academy's so-called "Tandona Class," whose members currently hold important posts in the military structure.

The "Tandona Class" or the "Symphony Class" was given these designations because it was the largest class of its time 20 years ago, when classes consisted of 10, 15, or at most 18 or 20 sublieutenants. Ponce is the more senior officer since he was the most outstanding student in his class.

Colonel Vargas will be replaced in the Armed Forces Joint Staff by Colonel Israel Machuca, who is currently director of the Treasury Police.

The new Treasury Police director will be Colonel Hector Heriberto Hernandez, who is currently commander of Military Detachment No 5, based in Cojutepeque, Cuscatlan Department.

Hernandez and some of his comrades will receive their degrees as military professors on 17 November.

Colonel Armando Rodriguez Mendoza, who is currently deputy director general of the Treasury Police, will replace Hernandez in Cojutepeque.

Another novelty in the Armed Forces General Orders that will be released today is the reinstatement of the post of deputy chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, which will be filled by Colonel Gilberto Rubio Rubio, who is currently assigned to one of the General Staff departments.

Guatemala

Underground Labor Party Considers Legalization

PA2910200388 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 27 Oct 88 p 6

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Oct—According to reports leaked during a recent Guatemalan Labor Party, PGT, political meeting, the PGT leadership is considering entering the nation's political mainstream at an appropriate time.

The party, whose motto is "For Guatemala, the revolution, and socialism" and which has operated underground for years, has surfaced recently through paid local media advertisements.

According to reports, progress has been made on plans to seek legalization and all that remains to be done is to make the final decision, which may come soon.

In its paid advertisements, the PGT has expressed its views on national problems and has supported the URNG, which has expressed its willingness to participate in the national dialogue that will be organized by the National Reconciliation Commission.

Sources close to the National Liberation Movement, MLN, which represents rightist sectors, have repeatedly said that PGT members have close relations with important figures within Guatemala's Christian Democratic government.

MLN members have even said that the Christian Democratic government is devising a plan to establish a socialist dictatorship in Guatemala.

FRG Grants Development Assistance Aid

PA2910122788 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 28 Oct 88 p 5

[Summary] According to an agreement signed on 27 October in Guatemala City, the FRG will provide Guatemala with $75 million of development assistance aid for the period 1988-89. The funds are to be devoted chiefly to road construction, rural development, and professional training. This additional aid raises the total assistance granted by the FRG to Guatemala to $175 million during the Cerezo administration.

Nicaragua

Cease-Fire Extended Unilaterally Until 30 Nov

PA3110213088 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2031 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text of Communique No 73 issued by the Presidential Press and Information Directorate in Managua on 31 October]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Presidential Press and Information Directorate informs the Nicaraguan people and the international community that:

In accordance with the spirit of the Esquipulas II agreements for the establishment of a strong and lasting peace in Central America and the Sapoa agreements for a permanent cease-fire, and in order to facilitate the laying down of weapons, the acceptance of amnesty, and reincorporation into normal life of the counterrevolutionary forces, the constitutional Government of Nicaragua has decided to unilaterally extend the cessation of offensive military operations until 30 November.

This decision by the Nicaraguan Government, which is diametrically opposed to the expressed wishes of the U.S. Government and Congress, whose policies and actions fan the fires of war and weaken the search for peace through political negotiation, applies to the entire national territory and shall not affect plans for popular mobilization in defense of the fatherland in the face of the danger of direct and indirect aggression from the current U.S. Administration and the continued criminal aggression by mercenary groups against the working people, since this aggression will be resoundingly repelled. [Issued in] Managua, 31 October 1988
For peace with dignity. Free fatherland or death.
[Issued by] Nicaraguan Presidential Press and Information Directorate

EPS Repels Boat Attack in Gulf of Fonseca

PA3110203088 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1947 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry has reported that Nicaraguan border guards repelled an attack conducted by three piranha boats coming from Honduras. The boats attacked observation posts located on the Nicaraguan coast along the Gulf of Fonseca.

A Defense Ministry bulletin states the posts, which were attacked 29 October, are located at Palo Solo and the estuary of El Chorro, 18 and 15 km southeast of Potosi, respectively, Chinandega Department.

The report states the EPS responded with 57-mm cannon fire and machinegun fire until the boats returned to their bases in Honduran territory. Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua share the waters of the Gulf of Fonseca.

Meanwhile, BARRICADA reported today a cannon attack from Honduras against the Nicaraguan town of Vado Ancho, located in northern Nicaragua.

No one was killed or injured as a result of the attacks, which followed a resumption of ambushes against the civilian population.

Contra Attacks Reported

PA3110191488 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] The Defense Ministry has reported that on 29 October, a group of approximately 10 mercenaries, following instructions from the Reagan administration, ambushed a military truck and a civilian truck 500 meters from Muhan, Chontales Department. As a result of this criminal action, two women, Maria Martinez Flores, 22, and Eli Noguera Franco, 18, were wounded. In addition, Jorge Luis Lopez Sequeira, a member of the Patriotic Military Service, was killed. The three were returning from delivering food supplies to the population of La Esperanza, an area affected by the hurricane.

President Daniel Ortega said that while the Nicaraguan Government is trying very hard to stabilize the country after the nationwide disaster triggered by Hurricane Joan, the mercenary groups follow instructions from the Reagan administration and continue to commit crimes against the people and the EPS.

One such criminal action occurred on 28 October, when Sandinist troops were ambushed at Valle El Jocote and Aguascalientes, southeast of Wiwili and north of San Antonio de Las Cuchillas, Jinotega Department. Three soldiers were murdered in the ambush.

D'Escoto Protests Attacks

PA0111135788 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0240 GMT 1 Nov 88

[31 October "protest note" sent by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman to Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras]

[Text] Mr Foreign Minister:

I am addressing your excellency to once again refer to constant Honduran Army troop attacks against our national territory. On 26 October, Honduran Army soldiers stationed in La Campana, military grid coordinates 5601, 4 km north of Teotecacinte, attacked a Nicaraguan observation post in Murupuchi, coordinates 5500, 5 km north of Teotecacinte. These troops used 50-mm machinguns and 81-mm mortars in the attack.

At 1020 on 28 October, the same post was attacked again under similar circumstances.

At 2100 on 29 October, three Honduran Piranha boats simultaneously attacked our border guard troop posts in Estero El Chorro, coordinates 2659, 18 km southwest of Potosi, and in Palo Solo, coordinates 2757, 15 km southwest of Potosi. Machinegun fire and mortar shells were used in this attack. The boats retreated to their sanctuary in Honduran territory when our troops responded to the attack.

The Nicaraguan Government vigorously protests this increase in attacks on and provocations against our national territory. These attacks show a lack of willingness to preserve peace and security in the border region.

The repeated acts of aggression against my country, which we have already protested, and the deployment of a large number of Honduran troops to the border region

lead us to predict a dangerous situation that would be in line with U.S. plans to provoke incidents to give rise to an escalation in terrorist actions against Nicaragua.

This situation coincides with an ongoing process to resupply mercenary forces operating in Honduras within the overall strategy to infiltrate 3,000 mercenaries into Nicaragua to carry out terrorist acts, including the sabotage of our coffee harvest and the programs to support the people who were affected by the hurricane that recently devastated vast areas of the country.

Once again, the Nicaraguan Government reiterates its demand to the Honduran Government to reduce, disarm, and relocate far from the border the mercenary groups who are settling in Honduras. Honduras must do this in accordance with its obligation to abide by international law and proceed to discuss with Nicaragua the immediate creation of an international mechanism that would help preserve peace and security along the border region.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to your excellency my highest appreciation and consideration.

[signed] Miguel D'Escoto Brockman

Foreign Minister

Costan Rican Envoy Removal Reportedly Requested
PA3110180088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1536 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] San Jose, 31 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Government has demanded the withdrawal of Costa Rican Ambassador to Managua Farid Ayales, who has been linked to "contra" sectors and the internal opposition, the media has reported in San Jose.

The request was made last week to President Oscar Arias and Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto while Ayales was visiting some Asian countries. Ayales' visit ended last Sunday, the Costa Rican daily LA NACION reported today.

The president and his foreign minister have not yet issued a statement about the alleged Sandinist request. Ayales, who has been holding the diplomatic post for the past year, simply said the charges against him are false.

According to the daily, the relations between Ayales and the Nicaraguan Government have worsened since the beginning of October, when the Sandinists understood that the ambassador—in statements to the media—termed as "inhumane" the condition of 33 political prisoners arrested for participating in the 10 July demonstration in Nandaime.

The Sandinists also have criticized Ayales' participation in meetings between the "contras" and Costa Rican officials in San Jose and view him as a contributor to the Managua opposition daily LA PRENSA's editorial page.

Diplomatic and political sources in San Jose presume the relations between Costa Rica and Managua—which had entered a rapprochement process following the signing of the Esquipulas II peace plan—will cool again.

These disagreements between the Managua government and the Costa Rican diplomat were obvious on 5 October in a Radio Sandino—the ruling FSLN radio station—commentary, in which Ayales was charged with meddling in Nicaraguan internal affairs because he criticized the "Nandaime prisoners'" situation.

Panama

Foreign Minister on Group of Eight Meeting
PA3110194588 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0326 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter by Luis Manuel Martinez; in studio—live or recorded]

[Text] [Martinez] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid was the only president that referred to Panama during the recent summit in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The Mexican president said that a consensus was sought at the meeting to bring Panama back into the group, but that it had not been obtained. However, he stressed Mexico was not going to label the Panamanian Government but was simply going to continue respecting the self-determination of our people. We would like to ask our guest, Foreign Minister Ritter, if the Mexican president's statement gives us a clue as to what country or countries blocked Panama's re-entry into the Group of Eight, which has now been left with seven?

[Ritter] I would not like to ponder which countries blocked or favored Panama's re-entry into the Group of Eight; the matter was discussed in private meetings. I would say the Mexican president was quite correct in stating that a consensus had not been attained for Panama's re-entry. As I have said previously, the nature of the Group of Eight and the way decisions have always been made in the group makes it hard to reach an agreement, especially on thorny subjects or matters that appeal to each component's subjectivity.

The Group of Eight has to act by consensus. In practice, this means the principle of majority does not operate. To be a bit more graphic, the group works on the principle of the veto. Consensus means unanimity; it means all the countries must agree. Thus, if only one country disagrees, consensus is not attained. An agreement is not reached if unanimous agreement is not achieved.

When Panama's temporary separation from the group occurred in February 1988, no conditions were placed for Panama's re-entry. However, it was clearly noted that Panama would return to the group when the political situation cleared up. What was never noted, because it was impossible, was what was understood or what each country understood by the term: to clear up.

I believe that for most countries, Panama's situation is in fact clear. There are no doubts now, as may have existed on 26 February of this year, about who holds the Presidency. We must recall that the Group of Eight met or was meeting in Cartagena the same day the Legislative Assembly removed former President Delvalle and swore in President Manuel Solis Palma. Hence, the Group of Eight decided Panama would not participate in the group as long as that situation was not clear. The issue now depends on each country's subjectivity. For some countries—actually, the majority of them—the situation is clear. Others view the issue based on subjective ideas, such as whether Panama's readmission will be determined by elections. However, Panama's readmission will be determined by other situations related to the country's domestic policy. As the Mexican president and other Latin American leaders have said, we respect and also demand respect for the principle of self-determination of peoples.

[Martinez] Does Panama's nonreincorporation into the group mean those countries do not recognize Solis Palma's government?

[Ritter] No, not at all. I think it would be good to clarify to the public some points on the recognition of governments. For a long time there has been no need in international law for other governments to formally recognize a change of government.

Countries and governments have relations among themselves regardless of each government's nature. If a country dislikes the government of another country, it can withdraw its ambassador from that country and terminate its diplomatic relations with that nation.

I want to say something very clearly: The only country that does not recognize the Panamanian Government is the United States. The U.S. Government does not have any legal justification for that stance. The U.S. Government is not recognizing the Panamanian Government so it can use its position as a pretext for its economic aggression against Panama. The United States used that position to illegaly withhold the funds belonging to the National Bank of Panama and to illegally and arbitrarily deliver those funds to Eric Delvalle and Juan Sosa. The U.S. Government claims those two individuals represent the Panamanian Government.

Perhaps the best example that illustrates our situation is the fact that on 28 October, Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma received the credentials of the new Peruvian ambassador to our country. The ambassadors of seven of the countries of the Group of Eight are accredited to Panama. Panama has diplomatic representations in those seven countries, and our bilateral relations with each of those countries are absolutely normal.

The composition of the Group of Eight is something different. That issue, I repeat, falls on the subjective criteria of the Group of Eight member countries.

[Martinez] Mr Minister, do you think Panama will enter a dangerous period after 10 November [date as heard], when the U.S. presidential elections conclude? People are saying the U.S. Government is holding back and waiting for the end of the elections to avoid any conflict that could affect Republican candidate George Bush's political interests. Do you believe the period between 10 November 1988 and 10 January 1989 [dates as heard] will be a difficult time for Panama?

[Ritter] The relations between Panama and the United States are extremely complex. Unfortunately, the United States has been conducting its relations with Panama in accordance with the desires of and changes in its own internal policy.

For example, U.S Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis used Panama, General Manuel Noriega, our country, and other Latin American countries as a springboard or instrument for his political campaign. Dukakis used Panama as an instrument, because he thought it would produce political dividends in view of the huge U.S. campaign against Panama. That belief was absolutely false. Dukakis is presently losing in all political polls. He is no longer using that tactic in his political campaign.

[Martinez] Let me corroborate your comment. In the first televised debate, Dukakis discussed the Panamanian problem five times while in the second debate, he did not even mention Panama.

[Ritter] No, he did not mention Panama, and the campaign propaganda concerning Panama was taken off the air.

For a long time, the U.S. Administration itself had Panama permanently in the limelight. Now, it has simply forgotten about Panama, perhaps because of the U.S. political campaign. Therefore, we do not expect any action before the elections. But one cannot predict the next reaction or step the United States will take once the elections are over. That is open to speculation. Political analysts of U.S. foreign policy can make many conjectures regarding that issue.

Some say the United States could resort to a harder policy toward Panama—if it is possible to adopt a harder policy than the current one. Some others believe the election of a new U.S. President will open a new game with new prospects. These suppositions depend on who wins the elections.

Because foreign relations must be based on facts and not on wishes, I would prefer not to speculate on what could happen in Panama between 8 November 1988 -10 January 1989.

[Martinez] Are you saying you will not join the crystal ball and prophecies game?

[Ritter] No, I will not join that game. I have always been against those games. I believe when one heads a country's foreign policy, one must do so based on realities and not on suppositions.

[Martinez] I listened to your inaugural speech at the meeting of Latin American and Caribbean Youths and Students. I thought it was a sincere speech and above all a responsible address, because a government official cannot stir up expectations in a time like that which Panama is currently experiencing. Like you, I believe we have not achieved the unity, fervor, and unanimous support Panama's cause deserves as a courageous stance against U.S. intervention. Could we defeat the plotting of a large power having so many resources as the United States should this little Isthmian giant have the support of the entire hemisphere?

[Ritter] It is difficult to predict what would happen to us without the support of the countries on our continent. We have received this support from SELA, the Nonaligned Movement, and even from the OAS and the United Nations. I must say, though, that in a speech like that ...[changes thought] you were kind in your praise while others said that it was too pessimistic. But I believe that especially because the congress was attended by so many young people, we had to make a crude X-ray, the crudest possible X-ray, of Latin America's real situation. An event of that nature, as all inter-American events, gives us the opportunity to speak for several minutes on the need for integration, Bolivar, the Jamaica Charter, the Amphictyonic Congress—about all the milestones in Pan-American history over the past 200 years.

I believe Latin America's reality does not reflect that solidarity and integration. I said then, and I reiterate it today, that we are moving in the opposite direction. There are many border disputes in Latin America. There are conflicts between countries—in my opinion many of them are artificial—created precisely to obstruct Latin American unity. When countries have been attacked—Panama is one of these cases—some countries have tried to hide their lack of solidarity behind facts unrelated to aggression by a superpower.

The end of the 20th Century finds Latin America absolutely divided, even more divided than at the beginning of the 19th Century, when the liberator drafted the Jamaica Charter. This should worry us and should make us realize that rhetorical resources, emotional speeches praising the memories of Bolivar, San Martin, or O'Higgins are not enough. We should practice real solidarity. Today we can see a continental Europe that in 1992 will have no borders, that will have a single currency and a single passport. Meanwhile, we see that Latin American countries that speak the same language, Caribbean nations that speak the same language, are absolutely divided by territorial disputes—some of which are important in the economic sense, others which are not—fighting over natural resources, forms of government, and societal issues. This is what I wanted to stress to the Latin American youths who came to express their solidarity with Panama: Praising the memory of our liberators and using rhetorical language is not enough. We must practice Latin American solidarity.

[Martinez] In other words, we should learn from history.

[Ritter] I think we should learn from history in order not to make the same mistakes. We can always learn lessons, but we cannot rely on history, believing that what the founders of our republic wanted will happen miraculously. Many great efforts and sacrifices are necessary.

[Martinez] Finally, Minister Ritter, what would be your message to the Panamanian people at the end of this interview, during which we have heard your views on very important and trascendental topics. Are there any prospects or hopes? You have repeatedly said no negotiations are taking place, that there are no possibilities of reaching an agreement with the United States. Could the change of government on 20 January be seen as a half-open door? What can we tell the people about their immediate future?

[Ritter] Again, I do not want to seem pessimistic, which apparently was the impression given by my speech to the Latin American youths; but I do not want to lie either, or to create false expectations. I do not believe the Panamanian problem will be solved immediately. There will be no dramatic changes, regardless of who the next U.S. President is, even if we reach an agreement with the United States. I will not even talk about an agreement with the United States, because we have nothing to settle with them. The United States has imposed a number of arbitrary and unjust measures, over which we do not have to negotiate with them.

We should not expect dramatic changes in the country's economic life, whether Dukakis or Bush becomes the next U.S. President. Whether or not the U.S. economic measures are lifted, we will not experience any dramatic changes. Moreover, a long time will have to pass before the United States will lift its economic sanctions. It will take quite a while for the country to recover.

I entertain no hopes that the country's economic situation will improve overnight. Instead, I would say that the we Panamanians must get used to this type of aggression. It will not be the last. They will continue until the end of the century. I would say that we should get used to living with that aggression. Using our own resources, imagination, and initiatives, we should seek formulas of understanding to solve the country's problems.

We should not wait for others to solve our problems—either the United States or other countries—since in the long run, solutions must be found by Panamanians. That would be my message. Above all—and I would like to stress this in summarizing what I have said—we should not expect dramatic or miraculous changes after the U.S. elections.

[Martinez] Well, I believe that we have picked your brain and given you a chance to express your ideas frankly. You have spoken not merely as a diplomat, but as a man who is deeply committed to his homeland. More than the foreign minister, we have heard a Panamanian speaking. Thank you for being honest and clear. I believe that if we are not capable of seeking new markets, of changing some habits and traditions, of living a more austere lifestyle, no one will help us stay afloat.

[Ritter] Thank you.

Abrams, Reagan Blamed for U.S. 'Aggression'
PA3110220388 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 31 Oct 88 p 4

["Let the People Judge" column by Ricardo Lince: "The Rats Are Beginning To Abandon the Ship"]

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, vainly trying to avoid his share of responsibility for the United States' aggression against Panama, pointed to Reagan as the one to blame for that erroneous policy. Abrams told the U.S. television network CNN that it was too late to correct such an unfortunate mistake. Revealing deep contradictions underlying his incompetence, he added: We will keep pressuring the Panamanian Government until the very end.

The rats are beginning to abandon the sinking ship and Elliott Abrams screams: Every man for himself.... Bush has apparently distanced himself from this policy so as not to be considered to have been involved in past wrongdoing. However, many think Bush will use the lawyers' sly fallacy: "You are responsible for winning a case, but someone else is responsible for losing a case."

Now that everyone is abandoning him, Reagan has shown his true self at news conferences. In his latest encounter with a piercing question from a journalist, he confused Iran with Afghanistan. He tried to cover this up when it was brought to his attention, but he ended up confusing Persian monarchy and U.S. democracy by saying the United States would support the return of the shah's royal house so as to bring an authentic system of representative democracy to Iran. The President's brain is not capable of functioning with the necessary alertness after assimilating a series of facts. He is undoubtedly on the verge of senility.

What is important about Elliott Abrams' official and public statements is that a top Reagan administration official, responsible for U.S. relations with Panama, provides and serves as the basic evidence of the political mistake committed against our country. He provides the evidence necessary to try the United States—a country that claims to uphold international law—so Panama may receive damages for the moral and material harm it is suffering due to the United States' economic, political, and military aggression.

Paper Reports U.S. Official Visits
PA2810151588 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 28 Oct 88 p A-4

[From the "Names and Events" column]

[Text] Richard Wyrough, director of the Office of Panamanian Affairs at the U.S. State Department, has visited Panama over the past few days to study the country's current situation. The White House has described his visit as routine. It is unknown whether Mr Wyrough will meet with top-ranking government figures and with political party leaders to get a clear idea of the real situation prevailing in the country.

FMLN Leaders Meet Solis Palma, Comment on Meeting
PA3110211688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2030 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Panama City, 31 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—FMLN leader Commander Joaquin Villalobos has described as "positive" his meeting today with Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma, and he stressed "the similarity of interests" between Panama and El Salvador.

Villalobos said as he left the meeting with Solis Palma that with "Panama we have similar interests concerning Reagan administration policy."

The minister in charge of the Panamanian Presidency met with Joaquin Villalobos, Ana Guadalupe Martinez, and Leonel Gonzalez, three of the top FMLN leaders who arrived in Panama yesterday to meet with San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas.

There were no reports on the topics discussed by the Panamanian president and the Salvadoran rebel commanders, who were questioned by the press as they left the presidential palace.

Guerrilla Commander Villalobos said that "the process for Panamanian independence and its struggle for sovereignty and its canal" coincides with "the struggle against the Reagan administration's interference" in El Salvador.

"In this sense," Villalobos said, "we agree that efforts must be made for peace and independence."

Ana Guadalupe Martinez said that if Duarte dies, "the situation will be more complicated, because there will be a power vacuum."

Duarte has stomach and liver cancer and according to his doctors, the Salvadoran president's life expectancy has been drastically reduced because of the illness.

"Like it or not," the FMLN leader said, "Duarte is a man who has challenged the party (the ruling Christian Democratic Party) and has gotten the North Americans to back it on almost all its positions in the face of the Army."

According to Martinez, the Salvadoran president's death would create the "perception of lack of leadership and an atmosphere of greater decomposition and destabilization."

On the replacement of General Adolfo Blandon, Salvadoran chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, after 5 years in the post, Martinez said it shows that "despite all his efforts, they have been unable to win the war."

"They have to change chiefs often, trying to find an alternative to wage a more victorious war," Ana Guadalupe Martinez said.

The FMLN leaders met in Panama today with Archbishop Rivera y Damas, who said he is here as "mediator" between the government and the guerrillas. He also presented the FMLN leaders with the conclusions of the "national debate" sponsored by the Salvadoran Church to achieve peace in the country.

News Conference Held

PA0111013988 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 31 Oct 88

[News conference by FMLN leaders Joaquin Villalobos, Leonel Gonzalez, Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Miguel Saenz, and Jorge Salvador Samayoa with unidentified reporters at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City; individual speakers not identified; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] [FMLN leader]...dispute between sectors of the economic right-wing oligarchy and the North Americans, who have been whimsically moving the pieces of the Army command. In this sense, we see the current change in the Armed Forces as being the result of a dispute between the North Americans and the oligarchy over control of the Army.

[FMLN leader] We think these latest changes are the culmination of a number of movements within the Army. The group led by [Colonel Rene Emilio] Ponce, identified as [name indistinct], has taken over the main command posts. They have people at the brigade and detachment level, and now they have seized the high command. The question is whether this reorganization will decide the war on the battlefield. We say that in 8 years of war, they have made changes in their strategy, which is not really their strategy but the North American strategy. Garcia was there in 1981 and then he left. There have been other important changes. Now Blandon [chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] is leaving. What is failing there is the strategy. It is the advice. It is the idea of wanting to contain the Salvadoran people's desire for freedom through a military strategy. We say that if the objective is to go to all-out war, which is contrary to the strategy of low-intensity conflict, this will accelerate the social explosion in the country. We have heard statements by Blandon and [Colonel Maurico Ernesto] Vargas, who say they are willing to hold a dialogue. In all our proposals, we have said that we are politically willing to sit down to talk. In the 5 October 1987 meeting held at the nunciature, we agreed to discuss a cease-fire. We were willing to discuss it. We have a proposal. We think a cease-fire proposal that entails the disarmament of our forces is unrealistic. We have concepts, we have a position, and we are willing to discuss it.

[Reporter] [Name indistinct] of (?ABC) Television. What is your position on a possible victory by Major D'Aubuisson's Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] in the elections?

[FMLN leader] We have been saying that the elections in El Salvador are becoming part of the illness when initially they were supposed to be the medicine that would strengthen the counterinsurgency plan. ARENA's rise to power, which is almost certain, will mean practically total control of the executive, judicial, and legislative branches by the economic right wing. In turn, this will complicate U.S. policy in El Salvador. The United States is the one that has really been deciding things. The Reagan administration, through its ambassador, has made efforts supposedly to clean up the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. They are the ones who divided the PDC. They are the ones who just made this change in the Armed Forces. They are the ones who make all the political reorganizations. In this sense, as part of a process of expanding the war, of escalating the people's struggle, and of weakening that plan, it is possible that ARENA'S rise to power would weaken the U.S. plan and that it would mean changes in the situation that might contribute to the opening of contacts and talks with different sectors of the Army and private enterprise. This is because the U.S. factor—the North Americans's instrument, the PDC—would be weakened.

[Reporter] Do you anticipate further actions by the guerrillas and other groups, especially the death squads?

[FMLN leader] We have been pointing out for quite some time that, contrary to appearances and reports, the death squads have been most active since the Christian Democratic Party and the Army made a pact. That was in January 1980. In other words, we are not making the mistake of asserting that ARENA and the rightwing are solely responsible for the death squads, regardless of the fact that ARENA and the rightwing participated in the genocide. The one that paved the way for it, the one that made sure that the aid would flow, the one that provided the internal and international political cover, the one that prevented international and internal isolation, the one that created the confusion among the people to the effect that the death squads were the problem and that the army was not carrying out the genocide, was the PDC.

If ARENA's emergence is intended to trigger total war, it must look for someone to finance it. It must look for someone to finance the war and help keep it going. In this regard, the conditions for the oligarchic rightwing—which are the same ones General Humberto Romero faced when he tried to pursue a policy of total war—

would be even more difficult than the ones that would be faced by the PDC, which has an image for itself, a political cover, and has had opportunities. We say that under these conditions, even if the rightwing wanted to wage total war, it would have a hard time finding someone to pay for it and would hardly have any credibility abroad. We also do not think they can turn this war into a detonator for a very explosive situation. The FMLN is now stronger and more developed militarily. It has a larger political following and is a unique catalyst of the Salvadoran opposition. They would be playing with fire if they launched a program of total war and large-scale repression. We think it would be very difficult, and not only very difficult but almost impossible, for them to carry out repression to the extent it was carried out before. Most likely they would trigger an explosion that would boomerang on them.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[FMLN leader] This is the fifth country we have visited as part of the FMLN's tour. As in all other countries, we have met with government leaders. In Panama's case, we are grateful for the government's gesture in making it possible for us to meet with Arturo Rivera y Damas and to receive the resolutions of the national forum. Besides this, we have had the opportunity to meet with President Solis Palma and General Noriega, taking into account Panama's traditional support for El Salvador.

This is not the first time we have been here. The Panamanian Government has always allowed us to negotiate thorny issues with the Salvadoran Government. It was here where we discussed ways to hold the Sesori meeting. We worked out the release of President Duarte's daughter here as well. So, continuing with this tradition, we gave them our analyis of the situation in El Salvador. We briefed them on our tour, on how positive it has been, on the vistas that have been opened, and on the possibility that Latin American countries will play an important role in this effort to negotiate political solutions for Central America, particularly El Salvador.

In addition, we briefed them on El Salvador's internal situation and told them we feel a decisive time is approaching, during which the Salvadoran people will need solidarity from other peoples and diplomatic support from governments.

We found substantial receptivity. The fact that we were received was positive. Moreover, there was a willingness to support us in all our efforts for dialogue and negotiation. Therefore, we now count on a government that has helped us continue this peace effort we have launched.

[Reporter] You said you held negotiations with Gen Noriega and Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, concerning your current problems. Did you talk, or was any reference made, to the problems we are facing too?

[FMLN Leader] We do not meddle in Panama's politics and we have maintained this position throughout the tour. In other words, we have shown respect for each country's internal affairs. In fact, in the cases of Ecuador, Peru, and Argentina, we have held meetings with members of the Justicialist Party in Argentina, with people from the Congress. We did so in Peru with people from the opposition. We did this in Ecuador, too. We even met there with former President Oswaldo Hurtado of the Christian Democratic Party. We talked with him for a long time. The topic we broached with governments and political forces in all of these countries was the situation in El Salvador. We did not discuss internal issues because we thought this was not our province.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[FMLN leader] If the assertion you made is correct, this would be possible. If Colonel Ponce said, as you pointed out, that the causes of the war must end in order for the war to end, this is exactly what we were saying this morning. The key issue, the issues of the debate planned and organized by the church, could be reduced to two: that the causes of the war end and that the war end. We see them in that order—not that the war must end in order to then discuss how to solve its causes, but that the causes of the war must be dealt with in order for the war to end.

This is our desire and if this idea is held by some Army officer, he will find us along the way and we will be able to talk.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[FMLN leader] If Col Ponce advocates total war, as has been said, the oligarchs will take control of the Army. It would be risky to say to what trend Col Ponce adheres today. So far, even in movements preceding Ponce's, the executors, those in charge of manipulating the whole situation were the State Department, the U.S. Embassy, and the Pentagon. It has always been U.S. policy to break the army's traditional leadership succession and to even create obstacles that have destroyed historical army traditions. They have even tried to destroy the army's tradition of internal discussions. In crises, the Army used to create a sort of internal parliament which, as a social and political body and not as a military body, debated and adopted positions. There have been historical moments when the Army adopted quite progressive positions and prompted changes. In this case, however, the ones who have made changes within the high command are the Americans. They are the ones who manipulate the situation. They are the ones who make the decisions.

Right now there is a contradiction between the two leading power blocs. On one hand, the Americans; on the other, the oligarchs. They are torn between two strategies. The Americans advocate a low intensity strategy that they say will end the upheaval now taking place due

to the economic crisis and popular insurgency. The Americans feel that 100,000 Salvadorans should be killed in 10 years. The oligarchs, who advocate total war, feel that 100,000 Salvadorans must be murdered in 6 months. We believe we are faced with two evils that are equally dangerous and harmful to Salvadoran society. If Col Ponce supports both positions and not a realistic position based on the fact that there is a correlation of forces that must be considered, that there is a concrete situation that must be considered, and that these years have only resulted in domination and loss of national identity for the army; if Ponce's position is not that of a native Army officer seeking a solution to the war in his country; if he supports the positions advocated by the oligarchs and the U.S. strategists, then this peace will be meaningless.

[Aparicio] I am Delsa Aparicio of AFP and LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA. First, I would like to know why Mr Geissler, secretary general of the FRG's Christian Democratic Union, was present. He spoke of the human rights situation in Central America, but he did not specifically mention El Salvador. I would like your opinion of the current human rights situation, the correlation of strength between the FMLN and the Salvadoran Army, and whether you believe the changes within the Army represent a desire by the Army to initiate talks with you.

[FMLN leader] Pardon me, did you say Geissler or Genscher?

[Aparicio] Geissler.

[FMLM leader] Geissler. Could you explain the first question a little more?

[Aparicio] The secretary general of the FRG Christian Democratic Union was here.

[FMLN leader] Geissler.

[Aparicio] Geissler. He spoke of human rights in Central America, but he did not mention El Salvador. I would like your opinion on this.

[FMLN leader] He is obviously a Christian Democrat. In fact, a resolution was issued in Geneva condemning the Salvadoran Government for its human rights violations. The European Parliament also issued a resolution condemning the human rights situation in El Salvador, prompted by the murder of a militant who expressed solidarity with the Salvadoran people. International forums are aware of the Salvadoran Government's human rights violations, which have increased this year. The government, meanwhile, knows it cannot control social upheaval and so it has decided to repress, murder, and terrorize the people. The Christian Democrats have reacted to the many reports on the situation in El Salvador by saying that ever since Duarte took office, murders, death squad activities, and human rights violations have decreased.

Our assessment is that most of the murders and death squad activities took place between January 1980 and the end of 1981. In approximately 2 years, 50,000 people were killed. Most of them were not murdered by the death squads, but by the Army, which hid under the name death squads. In other words, the murders came immediately after the Christian Democratic-Army pact was signed and this process began, climaxing with Duarte's presidency. It was under Duarte as a member of the government junta, and under Duarte and the Christian Democrats, that aid arrived and international isolation ensued. After the 50,000 deaths, the million displaced people, the widespread bombing, and the pathetic and horrible human rights violations in El Salvador, President Duarte said there was a trend toward [word indistinct].

But who was left to be killed in El Salvador? We were the only ones left, we who were rebelling; and how could they kill us if we were armed? This being the case, deaths were bound to decrease. The Christian Democratic Party is responsible for most of these deaths because they gave the murderers protection. This is what we can say about the lack of violations, but they are increasing once again because political opposition is rising. A government's decision to respect human rights can be tested when political opposition increases. Now, and despite the 50,000 deaths, the situation in El Salvador is again in upheaval.

Rumors about death squads are surfacing again, and they say that D'Aubuisson is responsible for them. The truth is that the army is the one implementing these policies. The high command, the U.S. Embassy, and the U.S. advisers are the ones planning and defining these policies. They are the ones that determine the political handling of these matters. Despite what they say, we believe the Christian Democratic administration is responsible for the human rights violations in El Salvador. We believe the umbrella that protected all their violations has worn out. Nobody in El Salvador believes them. Everybody believes the Christian Democratic government is as big, or bigger, a murderer than all the previous dictatorships the country has suffered through.

Regarding your other question on the balance of forces. I do not want to make my reply too lengthy. We summarize the balance of forces situation like this: Throughout these years, the war has been concentrated in the military sphere. Observers have said the war is balanced, that there is an impasse. Both the Army and the guerrillas are fighting. The fact that the FMLN has not been defeated is clearly to our advantage. It is fundamental that the FMLN's offensive continue, that we keep attacking, and that we adapt. In addition, the country's internal situation is now changing. The regime

is breaking down politically. There is a new rebel situation that encompasses and surpasses the military arena alone. The appearance of these factors is starting to change the balance of power. These factors help the revolutionary forces because they multiply our forces, and we are able to combine different fighting methods. Thus, when we achieve a balance—without limiting ourselves to counting rifles but taking into consideration the country's situation and taking into account the FMLN's military, political, and organizational experience and its capacity for an international and domestic political offensive—the advantage is clearly ours.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] What effect will the internal splitting of the PDC and the disappearance of Jose Napoleon Duarte have on the Salvadoran situation? Also, what are the minimum conditions required by the FMLN and its civilian front, the FDR, to initiate talks to promote a dialogue?

[FMLN leader] We have studied the situation and believe our country is going through the deterioration of the Reagan Administration's plan. One of the basic elements of that plan was Napoleon Duarte, who backed the war and tried to take away our social base by presenting a reform proposal. His reform proposal has failed. The economic factors have again been adorned and economic units that had been nationalized are returning to the oligarchy. Napoleon Duarte tried to form a social base to accompany the war effort. The PDC's division is indicative of the deterioration of that plan, of that effort. The PDC has split and, on top of that, Napoleon Duarte is about to die. We believe that his death will accelerate the plan's deterioration. We believe the PDC division is a result of the deterioration of the U.S. plan in the country.

In our visits to Latin American countries, we have said that we do not require any conditions to initiate negotiations. We require no conditions to begin talks. We have relayed the message that we are willing to talk with all social forces, including the armed forces. We have also said that we are willing to talk anywhere and at any time. We have no conditions. The government is the one that has stipulated conditions. Duarte has said that the FMLN has to dispose of its weapons in order to initiate dialogue. This is absurd and unacceptable. To ask that we put down our weapons at this time, when the situation is reaching a climax and when we are gaining strength, is unrealistic. They have not taken our weapons from us in 8 years, and we cannot put them down now that the armed element in El Salvador is important to the political resolution of the country's problems. We will not be able to achieve a political solution if we do not have credible military strength because the opposition sectors in the army, in the oligarchy, and even in the Reagan administration would believe that we were defeated and that their problem had disappeared. The prospects for a political solution and negotiations would be diminished.

[FMLN leader] I just want to clarify something regarding the FDR as a political arm of the FMLN: The FDR is not our political arm; it is an alliance and organization of a different nature. The FDR is a political organization, but the FMLN is a political-military force that has weapons and political strength.

I also want to add something about the PDC's position and Duarte's death. It is said that Duarte might be replaced by Chavez Mena in the hypothetical case that the PDC wins, which is very unlikely. It is said that Chavez Mena could replace Duarte, who was the most important man, who had gained some historic stature in the opposition, before he betrayed the Salvadoran people. We say the counterinsurgency plan will die with Duarte because it will be hard to find another man to replace him. If Duarte, who had more political stature and more ability to do things, was unable to save the plan when the ship was still afloat, Chavez Mena will be unable to save it while the ship is sinking. Chavez Mena has less charisma and less of a chance of carrying out any reforms. He will be unable to make any changes in Salvadoran society. It was even reported yesterday that the foreign trade nationalization decree was repealed. What would happen to that plan with a legislature in the hands of ARENA, with an army divided between ARENA and the North Americans? The chances are very slim that the plan could recover.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[FMLN leader] On the first question, let us say it would appear to be a formal act, but the church has been presenting the resolutions of the national debate for the last 2 months. Each of those presentations have been political events. The debate lasted several weeks. In this sense, we would say it is an effort to create opinions favorable for a political solution. Although there is no formula, a specific idea that a meeting could be held, we think this type of thing helps create favorable opinions concerning the need for a political solution, and it is a positive act that goes beyond merely formal aspects.

On the possibility of intervention by the United States, we do not rule it out. We take it into account. We think it would be difficult to carry out because it would be an adventure. We think the principles of low-intensity conflict, which have been used by the U.S. strategists in the Central American conflict and which resulted from the Vietnam war, establish that the United States contributes the money, weapons, and ammunition, and that others, the nationals, supply the dead. The problem is that direct intervention would mean the North Americans would have to supply the dead.

In the case of El Salvador, the characteristics of the war and the level of the conflict makes it obvious to any military strategist that the United States would be facing people who are prepared for a war of intervention. Eight years of war have taught us many things militarily, and obviously the conclusions reached in the national debate

establish a point of agreement in El Salvador, and that is that the North Americans should leave and let us Salvadorans solve our own problems. That is a point of general consensus. Therefore, if, instead of bearing this point in mind, they were to engage in armed intervention, they would be strengthening domestic unity, giving us more reasons to continue the war, and creating unfavorable international opinion and an unsustainable situation in the United States.

We do not rule out that direct intervention might occur, but in the long run they would have to leave. They could not stay for long in Salvadoran territory. We think it would be better if the administration seeks other causes. It cannot continue to explain the war, trying to justify an intervention by saying this is part of the East-West conflict, that this is part of Nicaraguan meddling, or that the problem is due to the arrival of weapons for us from Nicaragua. In fact, they are the ones who have flooded the region with weapons. They have armed the Contras. They have created a destabilized situation in the region. We know very well what they have done with Panama. It is a situation that has created more problems and crises in the region.

As I was saying about weapons, the North Americans talk about Nicaragua arming us, but they gave the Contras thousands of Soviet- or Korean-made rifles. On the Central American arms market, one can get anything from an AK-47 rifle for $300 to a surface-to-air missile for $3,500. Those weapons did not come from the Soviet Union. Nobody else brought them here. They brought them here.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[FMLN leader] On the previous question, we also bear in mind that this is not the time of Grenada. There are new situations now. There is a worldwide negotiations process to which the United States has committed itself in Afghanistan, Angola, and Cambodia. Why can't the administration play a real role in Central America? There is a negotiation process involved in solving the conflicts disrupting world peace. This is the new factor that is now present. The other important factor is the Latin American people's willingness to find ways and means to become more independent. The Salvadoran struggle has broad solidarity and support not only in Latin America but also in Europe and even in the United States. The U.S. people have expressed solidarity with our struggle over the past 8 years. This factor, the Latin American factor, is new. U.S. intervention in El Salvador at this time would further complicate its relations with Latin America. The more decisive factor is the domestic one. If the United States decides to embark on such an adventure, it will find people who are ready to build [words indistinct] independently. In this sense, we do not view all our efforts outside the framework of the U.S. domestic situation. There will be elections there. We feel that regardless of the winner, Bush or Dukakis, life will go on in El Salvador. We believe that whether the winner is Dukakis or Bush, he will have to think about El Salvador. The winner will have to either continue to prolong the war, continue to make these people suffer-...[changes thought] because in 8 years, the Reagan administration has been unable to defeat the FMLN. It has been unable to solve the crisis in El Salvador. I think this is a factor that the new administration must think about. We believe there will have to be a readjustment. It might be that if Dukakis wins, there will be more opportunities for political initiatives. If Bush wins, he might continue the military efforts. Our conclusion, however, is that either of the two will have to make adjustments. They cannot continue the Reagan administration's policy because that would mean continuing to bog down their foreign policy in Central America.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[FMLN leader] We were basically saying that when the U.S. plan dissolved and their instrument—the Christian Democratic Party—weakened, the balance of forces forced the creation of conditions for a national agreement. Who will be our interlocutors, with whom exactly will we be negotiating? We will discuss this as we go along. Perhaps it will be with the forces in power, perhaps with the opposition, we do not know. The fact is, however, that if the Americans, the Reagan administration, finds that its possibilities of intervening in El Salvador have diminished, conditions will be created for a national political understanding.

Toward the middle of 1980, there was a very tense situation in El Salvador. Under those conditions, however, we held talks—as part of the FMLN and not as the FMLN itself—with the army and the business sector. The tension was such that we were forced to resume talks with the same sectors that had stopped talking to us. The Americans had prevented a national agreement.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[FMLN leader] When we say that a change in the balance of strength must, because of the structure of society, lead to national agreement, that is exactly what we mean. In other words, the fact that it is impossible for the military alternative to work for the other side creates the conditions for a national agreement. What we are unable to foresee is whether we are going to negotiate with the government or the opposition.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[FMLN leader] If you are referring to ARENA as a party, we must say that at some point we will have to talk with the business sector. The business sector must understand that the need for social change in El Salvador is inevitable. It must understand that it will not be greatly affected, so it can continue to play an important role in society, although not the same as before, because 50,000 people cannot have died in vain.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[FMLN leader] We are still working; we cannot give you any information on this. For the time being, we have ended one part of our tour.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[FMLN leader] We have an alliance with Dr Guillermo Ungo's party. We agree with it that we must garner support for negotiations and we must take advantage of all types of struggle. At this time, the electoral option is opening. Through this, the Democratic Convergence is trying to make known a political proposal, the basis of which is the search for a political solution, the search for a government formula with the participation of all social forces in El Salvador, and the search for a plan that will resolve the causes of this conflict. Therefore, their participation is not for votes. Instead, their participation is to educate and win over forces for this change.

[FMLN leader] In this regard, we are acting in all fields, wherever there is an opportunity, without tying one type of action to another. In other words, if there are elections, there is war. If there are elections, the war will continue. We are undertaking many diplomatic efforts and we are waging war. We are promoting a process of dialogue and peace, and we are also fighting a war; and as long as there are reasons to continue fighting, we will do so.

Before finishing, we want to stress one aspect about which there were no questions.

Reagan administration sources, backed by some media—I will not say which—and the Salvadoran Government have apparently reported that through this tour we intend to ask for an opportunity to speak at the OAS meeting in San Salvador. I would like to ask you to devote some space to refute this report, because it is not true. We regard this tour as much more important than going to the OAS. We are not interested in attending that meeting. Rather, we are exploring the situation with an eye on more strategic moves than attending a simple meeting. This report is apparently intended to make it appear that our tour has failed because we will not attend that meeting. In truth, we have never asked anybody to let us attend that meeting.

This tour has a dual purpose. We know it hurts the Salvadoran Government politically. The people who receive us do so in a spirit of peace, because there is a situation in Central America and the FMLN is part of what is needed for a solution. This is how we see this. But in addition, there is a dual power situation in El Salvador that has become more evident during this tour.

Archbishop, FMLN Leaders Meet

PA3110210988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1836 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Panama City, 31 Oct (ACAN - EFE)—Top FMLN leader Commander Joaquin Villalobos today proposed "moving from dialogue to negotiation" to end an armed conflict afflicting El Salvador since 1980 that has claimed more than 60,000 casualties.

During a news conference today in Panama together with San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas—and attended by Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega—Villalobos advocated a dialogue with the Salvadoran Government.

"We place no conditions on a dialogue," added Villalobos, who deferred to "the other side" (Salvadoran Government and Armed Forces) the possibility of negotiations in the near future.

Before the news conference, the metropolitan archbishop of San Salvador, who said he is participating as "mediator" between the government and the guerrillas, handed the conclusions of a "national debate" promoted by the Salvadoran Church for the sake of peace in the country to Joaquin Villalobos and Leonel Gonzalez, another FMLN commander.

Villalobos said he "fully agrees" with such conclusions, which he interprets as a call to "end the war and the causes that provoked it."

Among those causes, the FMLN leader pointed out "the prevalence of social injustice, violation of human rights, and intervention by the Reagan administration" in El Salvador.

Rivera y Damas described the meeting with guerrilla leaders in Panama as "a step toward the achievement of peace through dialogue and negotiation."

"With the delivery of this document, one phase was closed and another opened," said the archbishop of San Salvador, who added that he is "hopeful" about negotiation possibilities.

Leonel Gonzalez reiterated the FLMN has the "political will" to hold a dialogue, but he stated the FMLN does not yet have an "official position" about the stance the FMLN should adopt.

The unusual news conference was held at the Antiterrorist Special Unit and generated unusual expectation among the local and international media, which was increased by the presence of the Panamanian "strongman" Gen Noriega.

Noriega refused to make any statement and said he was attending simply as an "observer."

The guerrilla leaders and the Salvadoran archbishop praised the Panamanian "hospitality." Villalobos remembered deceased General Omar Torrijos, "who always urged us to hold dialogue and negotiations."

Emile Stehle, director of "Adveniant," a religious German institution helping several Latin American churches, also participated in the news conference.

According to authorized sources, Stehle participated in the meetings with the guerrillas as the observer for the Vatican, which is closely following the mediator role of the Salvadoran Church in the country's armed conflict.

Early this morning at San Jorge Chapel, the San Salvador archbishop and Emile Stehle, along with FDP Lieutenant Colonel Chaplain Jorge Velarde, celebrated a mass for Panama Defense Forces officers.

After the news conference and the receipt of the document, the Salvadoran guerrilla leaders were scheduled to meet with Minister in Charge of the Presidency Solis Palma and with Gen Noriega.

Villalobos and Gonzalez arrived yesterday in Panama from Ecuador, accompanied by commanders Ana Guadalupe Martinez and Salvador Samayoa, members of the Salvadoran guerrillas' political-diplomatic commission.

Paper Criticizes 'Invitation To Kill Noriega'

PA2810125988 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Oct 88 p 4

["Political Arena" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua: "Invitation To Kill Noriega"]

[Text] I thought I was dreaming or had misheard. It was neither. I was very awake and the radio announcer repeated the information: Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA] Legislator Antonio M. Arias C. had said in the Legislative Assembly that the United States was making a serious mistake by imposing economic sanctions against Panama, because in its attempt to topple General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the United States was destroying our country.

As a faithful listener of radio commentators, I noticed how excited some of them were over legislator Arias' words. I was becoming enthusiastic, but I told myself: Wait for more information, because I smell a rat.

Sure enough, it was a rat that talked about the physical elimination of Commander Noriega. Yesterday, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA published the report, including excerpts of "Tony" Arias' statements to the Assembly plenary on 24 October. The deceased Arnulfo Arias' "super nephew" gave a unique analysis of the relations between Vice President Bush, the Pentagon, and the CIA with Gen Noriega.

The matter, however, was not dropped there. The importance of "Tony" Arias' statements began when he advised the Americans about what they should do in Panama. He said, and I quote: "If the United States wants to help the Panamanian struggle, it is time they change their tactics. They must use other, more discriminatory, selective, direct, and efficient procedures. They should not use procedures that contribute to the destruction of our entire country."

The PPA legislator's words are very similar to the ones used euphemistically by the CIA analysts in their "dirty work" operations. These analysts use the same kind of wording when they talk about eliminating Third World politicians who have had the courage and patriotism to refuse to obey obsequiously the orders from Washington. The words used to hide the order to murder are known by many. They are: "zero option," separate, revert, isolate, displace. When Arias requested that the United States use "more selective" and "more direct" procedures, he was inviting them to murder Gen Noriega.

I do not want Tony Arias to give the story a semantic explanation. He avoided mentioning the reasons for the Yankees' attacks against Noriega or the U.S. interest in staying in Panamanian territory after the year 2000. He gave a very simplistic explanation of the whole situation when he said Panamanians, who are suffering the consequences of those sanctions, are not a problem for the United States and that "the problem is another one, it is Mr Noriega...." According to legislator Arias, once Noriega is eliminated, the problem is solved.

I want to remind Mr Arias Campagnani that a list of Panamanians to be executed appeared a few months ago. I felt proud to appear in that list because it was made in the U.S. Embassy here in Panama, with the open collaboration of traitors and country-sellers. The list will, at least, make Mr Arias aware of the fact that "the problem is not Noriega." The hundreds of thousands of Panamanians who love the land where we were born and who are willing to die for it are the problem.

As for the PPA legislator's complaint that the United States does not impose sanctions on other Latin American countries also involved in drug traffic, I would recommend he become more informed about the drug-use problem and the criminal business behind it. He will discover present PPA President Carlos Rodriguez is involved in money laundering, 90 percent of the drug trafficking business is in the hands of Yankee "mafiosos," and the United States has the highest drug-use rate in the world.

Foreign Minister Presents Bills to Assembly

PA2810123488 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 27 Oct 88 p 2

[Summary] Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter yesterday presented 11 bills to the Legislative Assembly. Some of these deal with an agreement with the Japanese

Government that would send Japanese volunteers to operate the Panama Canal; a protocol to amend the OAS Charter so the organization can meet in November; a tourism cooperation agreement between Panama and Israel; and approval of the international sugar trade agreement.

Costa Rica Conveys Gratitude for Disaster Aid

PA2810132388 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Oct 88 pp 1, 18

[Report by Arnoldo Candanedo]

[Text] David, 27 Oct—During yesterday's visit to a disaster area in the neighboring country, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez expressed his gratitude to the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], led by General Manuel Antonio Noriega. He was grateful for all the help given to the Costa Rican brothers who have suffered from the flooding of the General, Claro, and Iterraba Rivers. The flooding claimed many lives and damaged homes in the towns of Los Castanos, Kilometro 25, Villa Neily, Rio Claro, Palmar Norte, Palmar Sur, Las Vegas, Cajon, Coquito, Guacimo, Vergel, El Brujo de Buenos Aires, and Sierpe. In addition, several landslides have been reported in those areas. The highways have been blocked because of the collapse of some bridges and landslides.

In times of disaster, the Costa Rican people convey their gratitude to the people of Panama, especially to the FDP and its commander, Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Spain Signs Aid Cooperation Agreement

PA2810191288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2329 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Summary] Panama City, 27 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Spain today signed cooperation agreements with Panama in the areas of housing and health which will involve the construction of 92 low-income housing units and a donation of food and medicine for the victims of hurricane Joan.

Carmelo Angulo, vice president of the Institute for Ibero-American Cooperation (ICI), announced the "immediate arrival" of insecticides valued at $100,000; 7,000 kg of medicine; 4,000 kg of food; and 2,040 blankets. Spain will also help train professionals, reorganize the postal service, and participate in agricultural projects.

Argentina

Military Involved in Falklands War Sentenced

PY3110201888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1947 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Oct (TELAM)—The Federal Appellate Court has sentenced Lieutenant General Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri, retired, Admiral Isaac Anaya, retired; and Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo, retired; to 12-year prison terms for their part in the military activities of the Malvinas Islands war.

In addition, the Federal Appellate Court has acquitted General Mario Benjamin Menendez, retired; Gen Omar Edgardo Parada, retired; and Vice Admiral Juan Jose Lombardo, retired.

Chilean Plane Enters Argentine Airspace

PY3110140288 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1322 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Comodor Rivadavia, 31 Oct (DYN)—Authorities are investigating the "confusing circumstances" that surround the landing of a Chilean plane, carrying four military men, which had previously overflown Argentine troops on maneuvers in the border area of Alto Rio Senger.

In today's issue, the local newspaper CRONICA reports that the landing occurred during the final hours of 28 October.

The plane landed at the Alto Rio Senger airstrip after entering Argentine airspace, apparently without permission.

It has been established that the plane was a Cessa 402, registration CC-CCB, and that it was piloted by two military men, who were accompanied by Chilean Air Force and Carabineros officers.

According to its pilot, the plane, which belongs to the Don Carlos Company, was flying the Coyhaique-Lago Verde route on the Chilean border, when, due to apparent mechanical failure, he was forced to cross the border and make an emergency landing in Argentina.

CRONICA, citing local sources, reports that the Chilean plane had, prior to its landing, presumably overflown the area where Argentine troops are carrying out routine maneuvers.

CRONICA states that "there is the possibility that the pilot entered Argentine airspace for other objectives."

This morning the plane was still at the Alto Rio Senger airstrip waiting for spare parts from Chile, while those who were on board gave their testimony to the authorities of the local squadron of the Border Police and of the 9th Air Brigade.

PJ Candidate Menem Begins European Tour

PY2910132388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1805 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Oct (NA)—This afternoon Peronist presidential candidate Carlos Menem said that by traveling to Europe "we will try to destroy the dark legend about Justicialism that has been passed on there for so many years."

"We will show that the Justicialist Party is a very democratic party," he said.

Menem said: "When our Justicialist presidents left power, the European countries did not remember that the members of our movements existed."

Menem made these statements at the Ezeiza International Airport, before departing for Spain, the first leg of his tour of European countries.

Military Salaries Increased by 12 Percent

PY3110221788 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1430 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Oct (NA)—Military sources have said that military salaries will be increased by 12 percent in October. Consequently, a lieutenant general—the top army rank—will earn a salary of approximately 17,500 australs.

The 12-percent increase is part of the salary recomposition plan that was suspended at the beginning of the year.

In June, military personnel received a 25-percent salary hike, which was equivalent to the increase of public servant salaries. A 5-percent increase was later added.

A 14-percent increase above the inflation rate for the last quarter is still to be enforced, in keeping with an accord between the Armed Forces and the Ministries of Defense and Economy.

According to the newspaper PAGINA 12, Defense Planning Secretary Adalberto Rodriguez Giavarini has said that "no decision has yet been made on future increases, but we want to assure the Armed Forces that they will receive the adjustment for inflation until the end of the year."

According to the newspaper, the Economy Ministry has also agreed to provide 400 million australs to the Army for the new draft.

The Armed Forces' salary recomposition plan provides for a gradual adjustment of salaries in order to reach the same level of judicial branch personnel salaries over a 1 to 2-year period.

It is estimated that military salaries will have been increased by about 60 percent in the 2d half of the year.

Police Confiscate Cocaine, Arrest Trafficker

PY3110021288 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1324 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 30 Oct (TELAM)—Federal Police Dangerous Drug Division personnel have broken up a dangerous gang of smugglers who bartered stolen cars for large quantities of drugs on the Argentine-Bolivian border.

Police arrested Argentine citizen Angel Antonio Panssiones, 49, and confiscated 1 kg of pure cocaine, which was part of a 5-kg cocaine shipment which Panssiones had previously bartered for a 1986 pick-up truck in the village of Pocitos, in Salta Province.

Bolivia

Government Not To Tell DEA Agents To Leave

PY2810125988 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] The Bolivian Government will not tell the DEA agents to leave our country, because they help in the fight against drug trafficking, Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez has said.

The minister said that the government will not tell them to leave simply because [words indistinct] United Nations fulfill their duties [word indistinct] and tasks [words indistinct].

Bedregal Gutierrez said that a joint committee, recently created by the U.S. and Bolivian Governments, will analyze the most appropriate way of keeping the DEA agents working in Bolivian territory.

The Bolivian Government [words indistinct] the U.S. economic help and officials will study ways of establishing better administrative contacts to ensure the assignment of funds to be used in fighting drug trafficking.

Minister Bedregal, who is a member of the Council for Fight Against Drug Trafficking, said U.S. economic help does not meet the Bolivian requirements because there are certain problems that must be overcome. Bedregal also said that, during the next Vienna Convention, Bolivia will propose the approval of laws to help eradicate this evil, and to punish those responsible for corruption [words indistinct] of the drugs.

Government Hopes To Delay Payment of Debt

PY0111023988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0207 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] La Paz, 31 Oct (EFE)—Today the Bolivian ministers in the economic sector reported that the Bolivian Government hopes to delay the service of the interest and principal of its $2.3-million debt for 3 years.

Planning Minister Fernando Romero, and Finance Minister Ramiro Cabezas said that this proposal will be made to the Paris Club country members during the meeting that will be held in Paris in November.

According to the ministers, this proposal has the support of the IMF, the IBRD, and the U.S. Government.

They also said that the Paris Club is willing to accept the postponement on the nearly $100 million Bolivia will have to pay yearly from 1989 to 1991.

The ministers concluded by saying that this is the only way the country will be able to reduce the pressure being exerted on the national treasury and implement the reactivation of the productive sectors.

Creditors To Accept Bonds as Debt Payment

PY3110124188 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0012 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] La Paz, 30 Oct (EFE)—Seven private international banks that form part of the consortium of financial-commercial enterprises to which Bolivia owes money will soon receive "investment bonds" in payment of the Bolivian foreign debt.

Bolivian Central Bank President Jacques Trigo has disclosed that the banks that will receive "bonds" for a value of $37.8 million—11 percent of the payment they demand—are, among others, the Rio de la Plata Bank, the BFG Luxembourg, the Chemical Bank, the European Arab Bank, the Steinhard Partners Bank, and the Wells Fargo Bank.

These enterprises will accept "bonds" that may be invested either in private or public enterprises in Bolivia.

The issuance of bonds forms part of the mechanism to repurchase the foreign debt that the Bolivian Government has proposed to the commercial banking sector as a means of solving the problem of a capital debt, in arrears for more than $600 million, which it has maintained since 1984.

The government had proposed to repurchase its commercial foreign debt at 11 percent of its value—a price established by the secondary market in New York—partly with cash and partly with investment bonds.

Under this plan the government has purchased 50 percent of the commercial foreign debt with cash and bonds, but the remaining portion must be directly negotiated with its creditors.

Brazil

Federal Police Chief Investigating Coup Rumors

PY3111214988 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] Federal Police Director General Romeu Tuma has ordered the identification and detention of "terrorists" who, according to him, "promote an atmosphere of insecurity by speculating about imminent military coups."

Other important people who are also concerned about these rumors are: Acting President Ulysses Guimaraes, Minas Gerais Governor Newton Cardoso, Sao Paulo Mayor Janio Quadros, and businessman Antonio Ermirio de Moraes.

Sarney Orders Debt Negotiation Tactics Changed

PY3110220088 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] On 28 October, President Jose Sarney instructed Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega to resume the tactics of nonconventional foreign debt negotiation, which have not been employed since former Minister Bresser Pereira stepped down. Sarney made this decision immediately after the Group of Eight presidents in Punta del Este approved a plan providing for the mechanisms for the resolution of the region's foreign debt problem. The main strategy will be to exchange the debt documents with a discount rate.

CNEN Head on World Nuclear Market Participation

PY2810024788 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] This morning, Rex Nazare, president of the CNEN [National Commission for Nuclear Energy] informed the Congress budget commission about the CNEN budget.

[Begin Nazare recording] About 25 billion cruzados will be allotted to the continuation of the [word indistinct] of approximately 200 national companies which, together with the CNEN, participate in an autonomous development project that creates jobs and national products.

The other 40 billion will be used in the exploitation of the fifth largest uranium deposit in the world, and to make possible our participation in the international nuclear market, which moves $11 billion annually. This participation cannot be denied to us, even though it has been denied to us. [end recording]

Rex Nazare said that some developed countries do not want Brazil to develop their nuclear capability.

IMF, IBRD Charged With Holding Back Loans

PY0111130488 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Oct 88 p 27

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday in Brasilia, Rex Nazare—chairman of the National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEN)—said that the IBRD and the IMF are exerting pressure on the Brazilian Government to open the so-called "parallel nuclear program" to international inspection. According to reports made to ESTADO Press Agency by government economic team sources, these pressures are delaying the granting of $500 million to be used in financing the electrical sector recovery plan, monies already agreed upon by Brazil and the IBRD. The granting of this IBRD loan is an indispensable condition for the granting of a $450-million loan already agreed upon with the Japanese Government.

After giving a lecture at the Congressional Budget Committee, Rex Nazare asserted that he will leave the CNEN chairmanship if the Brazilian Government gives in to this international pressure. The "parallel nuclear program," now part of the Brazilian Nuclear Program, developed independently from an agreement signed with the FRG in 1977, and is not subject to international supervision.

The Institute for Nuclear Energy Research (IPEN) in Sao Paulo; the Institute of Nuclear Energy (IEN) in Rio de Janeiro; and the Radio Protection and Dosimetry Institute, also in Rio de Janeiro are part of the Brazilian Nuclear Program. The program's projects include uranium enrichment, the development of the metalwork sector, research on nuclear propulsion, and the radiation of foodstuff and of surgical instruments.

All these units will soon be absorbed by the recently created Brazil Nuclear Industries (INB)—a holding [preceding word in English] that will also absorb Brazil Uranium S.A., which is responsible for uranium prospecting projects along with private sector companies. Nuclebras Heavy Equipment Co. (Nuclep), which can manufacture large reactors, will soon be privatized by the government.

According to Nazare, "the attempt to prevent the technological development of the developing countries, which previously consisted of creating difficulties for the transference of technology, goods, and services, now consists of creating difficulties in the economic and financial fields." The recent restrictions imposed by the international financial organizations on loans granted to Brazil confirm this situation, Nazare said. "The financial organizations are trying to handle the national projects and to decide about the future of the country from abroad, in direct violation of our right to self-determination," he said. During the lecture, the CNEN chairman commented on all the efforts made, first by the United States and then by the other nuclear superpowers, to limit the extent of countries access to nuclear technology.

University Teachers, Students Demonstrate

PY2810030888 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] A demonstration of striking teachers and students from Sao Paulo public universities ended in total confusion in front of Bandeirantes Palace, the state government house. The teachers, students, and university employees first gathered on the Sao Paulo University campus.

A military police helicopter followed them as they marched down to Bandeirantes Palace. The police cordoned off the area in front of the palace where demonstrations are not allowed. The demonstrators tried to break the cordon and police were then forced to use tear gas and sticks. Some demonstrators were injured.

By the end of the afternoon, the science and technology secretary received a delegation of the demonstrators to discuss their demands.

Luis Antonio Fleury Filho, security secretary of Sao Paulo State, has just stated that the police reacted correctly because the demonstrators provoked them when they tried to break the police cordon.

October Inflation Rate Highest Ever

PY2910120488 Brasilia Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Summary] The IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] reported that October's official inflation rate was 27.25 percent, which is the highest inflation rate ever in Brazil. This means that the inflation rate for the 1st half of the year was 532.34 percent.

Chile

Pinochet Says Opposition Endangering 'His Life'

PY3110135388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0209 GMT 30 Oct 88

[All quotation marks as received]

[Excerpt] Santiago, 29 Oct (EFE)—Chilean Chief of State General Augusto Pinochet today stressed that the opposition "is placing" his life "in danger" by stating that "he is the only obstacle on the path toward democracy," and he accused the opposition of trying to separate him from the Armed Forces and to isolate him from everyday life.

In a speech that he gave in Iquique, 1,857 Km north of Santiago, Pinochet said that "it has been said that I am the only obstacle on the path toward democracy." They are thereby trying to separate me from the Armed Forces and isolate me from the people.

These intentions "can even lead to my physical elimination, he added, and consequently he called on it (the opposition) to assume the responsibility for this."

Explaining his defeat in the 5 October plebiscite, Pinochet termed the opposition's victory as an "unjust decision" that has its origin in 15 years of government, "which is a political cost that any head of state has to accept."

Pinochet said that another reason for his defeat is that powerful forces—"such as foreign powers, costly campaigns financed by international Marxism, and the unexplainable lack of understanding of some spiritual organizations—have conspired against the work that we have undertaken."

Despite the petition of the opposition, the Catholic Church, and the political parties that opposed him in the recent plebiscite, as well as the opinions of other members of the junta—the Chilean chief of state maintains that he does not support dialogue with the opposition and, even less, any type of modification to the Constitution.

Today in Iquique Pinochet stressed that, "I am committed to this Constitution, and that is why I have sworn to implement and carry out the mandate that the people gave me in 1980. In no way will I veer from that path."

He added that "it is not possible for him to maintain an ambiguous position, which could have led to good election results, but which would seriously damage domestic peace and would compromise Chile's destiny."

Referring to the results of the plebiscite, which Pinochet lost, he stated that his "undoubtable respect for the will of 54 percent of the Chilean people cannot separate me from the respect that I owe to the other 43 percent," which voted for him to remain in power for another 8 years.

Pinochet concluded by saying, "Chile is and will continue to be a free country, thanks to the shared efforts of the men of arms and the majority of the people." [passage omitted]

Matthei Admits Rift Between Junta, Pinochet

PY3110220888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2015 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Santiago, 28 Oct (EFE)—Today General Fernando Matthei, commander of the Chilean Air Force, and Government Junta member, admitted that on 5 October, the day the plebiscite was held, the commanders of the Armed Forces and General Augusto Pinochet got into an argument.

Matthei said that the disagreement with Chilean President Augusto Pinochet were "discussions among men, as soldiers, face to face, not behind backs."

According to press reports which were denied by officials of the military regime on the night of the plebiscite, and as result of the opposition victory, discussions were held at a government level about the possibility of "setting

up" a favorable result for the regime, and to provoke a confrontation on the streets between opponents and supporters of the regime in order to justify a military intervention.

The sources state that Chief of Cabinet Sergio Fernandez asked the government junta to grant Pinochet special and broad authority to adopt measures on the night of 5 October and the following days. Fernandez' request was denied by the junta.

The conservative magazine QUE PASA revealed that Gen Matthei insisted on the need to respect the Constitution. His position was supported by Navy Chief Admiral Jose Toribio Merino and by Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange.

The magazine added that the government members planned to organize street demonstrations to celebrate the "yes-vote" victory, based on a 1-million-vote count which would be "made-up" at La Moneda, making Pinochet the victor.

This demonstration would have irritated the opposition, who would have gone to the streets to defend the "no-vote" victory with "force and conviction." This would have caused a "clash."

According to QUE PASA, this clash would have forced the military to intervene, "thus creating serious problems that might have led the country into a state of exception."

Press articles have reported that Matthei played an important role on the night of 5 October when, before entering Pinochet's office at La Moneda to attend a Junta meeting, he conceeded the "no-vote" victory.

In this way Matthei put an end to the uncertainty caused by the silence of the Interior Ministry, which failed to report on the plebiscite returns for 4 hours.

In interviews with the local press, Matthei said: "I did not play any special role. At least I have never been aware of having played any special role, and I have never expected to do so."

Commenting on the fact that the Air Force representative is no longer a member of the Cabinet, Matthei said: "Pinochet agreed entirely with the decision because now he wants to work with a civilian team, and we all support his decision."

Gen Matthei denied having any electoral plans and pointed out that now is the time for political parties to play the role they are meant to play.

Church Leader Calls for Amendment to Constitution
PY3110143488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2210 GMT 29 Oct 88

[By Senen Conejeros]

[Excerpt] Santiago, 29 Oct (EFE)—The vicar of solidarity and vicar general of the Santiago archbishopric, Sergio Valech, today joined those who are demanding that the Chilean military regime headed by General Augusto Pinochet amend the Constitution currently in force.

In the editorial published in the latest issue of the magazine SOLIDARIDAD, on sale in Santiago today, Msgr Valech, in view of the results of the plebiscite won by the opposition on 5 October, makes an appeal, especially to those who help form public opinion, to "decide and act in a sensible and intelligent manner" in order to "secure peace for the future."

The vicar, a bishop respected by government and opposition circles for his moderate stance, states that "it is up to public personalities and the government junta, especially, to see that the common good is achieved."

Referring to the repeated appeals made by President Pinochet to abide by the text of the Constitution that he enacted in 1981, but without directly mentioning those appeals, Bishop Valech asserts that "a misunderstood loyalty must not become an obstacle that could threaten the future harmony of the Chilean people."

Msgr Valech believes it is time to change what the people want changed, "especially when it seems that a consensus on some issues is obvious," clearly referring to calls for changes made even by other authorities and leaders of political parties that supported the government during the plebiscite.

The bishop states that "the need for amendments to the Constitution seems to be quite clear to the conscience of the people."

Valech, after stating that the Constitution itself says that during this period the government junta may amend it and establish a mechanism that will prevent further changes once the transition period is over, asserts that "the law is made to suit the human being and not the human being to suit the law."

In Msgr Valech's opinion, if the government junta amends the Constitution now, it will not violate the Constitution, but rather fulfill its terms "by using the mechanisms established by it." [passage omitted]

Army Proposes American Anticommunist Force

PY3110151188 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1458 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Santiago, 30 Oct (EFE)—A Santiago newspaper today reports that in a "secret document" submitted to the Conference of American Armies in 1987, the Chilean delegation "proposed the creation of a hemispheric organization to combat Marxism."

In today's issue, under the title of "The Chilean Army's Undeclared War," LA EPOCA has published a report on the topic, written by Raul Sohr, an expert in military matters.

The report indicates that the Chilean Army proposed that the "International Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR) be expanded" to allow for the creation of a force to combat "continental subversion." The proposal was made in a document called "The Organization of Combined Operations To Stop Subversion in America, While Maintaining the Principle of Nonintervention."

The document, which was submitted to the other American Armies, indicates that "as there is an international solidarity within the subversive movement, then ample cooperation should be promoted between the forces that combat it."

According to the document, subversive actions "are generated in Moscow, they are coordinated in Cuba or Nicaragua, and they are implemented by local subversive organizations."

The cooperation that is proposed by the Chileans refers to the "training of forces, both in leadership and in the carrying out of antisubversive operations."

"This training," the document adds, "which has been or is being implemented in one way or another in the member countries of this conference, has had significant support through the doctrinaire exchanges at the School of the Americas, and many generations of military men have already obtained valuable experience in this matter."

The document also proposes that "the Inter-American Defense Board should outline a common antisubversive doctrine and that it could be taught at the Inter-American Defense School and at the School of the Americas."

The author of the LA EPOCA report indicates that the proposal "did not fare well and it had to be withdrawn" because "it did not take into account basic details of Latin American reality," such as the fact that "only two countries—Paraguay and Chile—have declared communism illegal.

The report concludes by indicating that "in the opinion of the Army chiefs that participated in the 1987 conference, "Communism is not the first point on the agenda."

Economy Minister Returns From Korea, PRC

PY3111212988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Economy Minister Manuel Concha has just returned from the PRC and Korea [not further identified], where he visited for approximately 10 days to strengthen commercial relations with the two countries.

Minister Concha voiced his satisfaction regarding the talks held in the two countries, especially in Korea where the possibility of exporting Chilean manufactured goods was discussed. In this regard, the minister explained that Korea is reducing some of its custom taxes which would favor Chilean exports.

The possibility of exporting Chilean grapes to Korea was also discussed. A group of Korean experts will come to examine the problem of fruit flies.

The minister was asked about his talks in the PRC.

[Begin Concha recording] The PRC has doubled its GDP in the past 10 years. Its exports for 1988 will increase by 15 percent and imports by 25 percent. The PRC is a great market for Chile and we should be very proud of our relations with the country, and of the treatment given Chile in its capacity as a developing country, although the PRC itself is a developing country. We have established a great relationship to the point that we have established a joint venture, that is a shared risk project, for the construction of a copper plant that I visited outside Beijing. I visited the plant, which is being assembled and will become operational in February 1989. [end recording]

The minister concluded by saying that the PRC is interested in expanding the plant and making some investments, especially in the Chilean forestry field.

Peru

Garcia Returns From Punta del Este Summit

PY3110195888 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Excerpt] After arriving back in Peru, President Alan Garcia Perez discussed the summit in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Here are his remarks for the "La Noticia" program:

[Begin Garcia recording] Through you, gentlemen journalists, I would like to greet all my countrymen upon returning to Peru after having participated for 3 days in an important international meeting with other Latin American presidents. [passage omitted] [end recording]

50,000 Attend Antigovernment Rally in Trujillo
PY3110201388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2259 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Lima, 30 Oct (EFE)—Last night during a rally held in the northern city of Trujillo, members of the democratic front—one of whose leaders is writer Mario Vargas LLosa—harshly criticized President Alan Garcia's government and claimed that the democratic front offers a way to overcome the country's current crisis.

During the rally, held where APRA founder Victo Raul Haya de la Torre was both born and died—Trujillo has been a traditional APRA stronghold—Vargas Llosa was again mentioned as the front's possible candidate in the 1990 elections. According to the Lima newspaper EL COMERCIO, political observers said the rally was attended by some 50,000 demonstrators at Trujillo's main square.

The newspaper also reports that during the afternoon, groups of APRA members—one of them headed by Trujillo's female mayor, Miriam Pilco—marched along downtown streets protesting the presence of democratic front leaders in Trujillo.

Vargas Llosa, leader of the freedom movement, founded in 1987 based on the writer's categorical opposition to the law of nationalization of the Peruvian banking system, addressed the rally. He said that the current Peruvian administration is "one of the most inefficient governments in Peruvian history."

Former President Fernando Belaunde, who heads the center-rightist "Popular Action" (AP), and Luis Bedoya Reyes, leader of the conservative Christian People's Party (PPC), also addressed the rally. Belaunde expressed his support for Vargas Llosa's nomination. Both the AP and the PPC are members of the democratic front.

Before the rally, the three leaders signed the "Trujillo declaration," which was entitled "a driving will." In the declaration, the three leaders summarize the essentials of a government plan and "proclaim their faith in Peru and their will to join efforts to recover our fatherland," calling upon all Peruvians to join in "to save our country from chaos."

Petroperu Said 'In a State of Bankruptcy'
PY0111022688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1653 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Lima, 31 oct (EFE)—Jaysuno Abramovich, top executive of the State Petroleum Agency Petroperu, Peru's second largest state-run company, has reported that the company has registered a deficit that surpasses $3 billion and that, from a technical viewpoint, it is in a state of bankruptcy.

In a technical-financial report published today by the political magazine SI, Abramovich—who heads the company's board of directors—said that "the company that the government asked me to manage is, from a technical viewpoint, in a state of bankruptcy and suffers from a serious (?lack of) liquidity."

In a report submitted to the Petroperu board of directors on 22 September, released over television last night, Abramovich reported that the Petroperu deficit has reached $3 billion, which amounts to 40 percent of the nation's general budget.

According to the report, in 1985 the Peruvian daily oil output was 70,700 barrels of crude oil. This year, production dropped to 53,400 barrels a day.

The magazine said that "the lack of maintenance operations has caused not only a drop in production but a drop in the security of Petroperu facilities which, because of the high risk involved, do not have insurance."

Labor leader Oscar Benavides said during the television program that the economic problems have forced Petroperu to cut spending on buying spare parts and maintenaince services, and that this situation has forced a reduction of the operational capacity of the plants in Lima and in the countryside.

With supporting evidence in his hand, Benavides said that the state "devours" Petroperu's funds because the state absorbs 72.2 percent of the production proceeds, Petroperu receives 23.4 percent, and 6.4 percent [figures as received] is given to the companies distributing petroleum by-products.

After emphasizing that the critical situation currently experienced by Petroperu is not new, Benavides said that 1985 was the last year in which Petroperu showed any profits.

Petroperu technicians told EFE about the immediate possibility that the country will experience an "energy crisis." They also warned about the possibility of fuel rationing and traffic restrictions as occurred in 1970.

The technicians said that in 1987 Petroperu imported 2 million barrels of oil and that in 1988 that total could reach 11 million barrels, a fact that would aggravate the state's financial crisis.

The technicians added that in the next few days the gasoline price per gallon (4.5 liters) will be increased by 80 percent to obtain more funds for Petroperu. On 7 September, the government raised gasoline prices by over 300 percent.

So far in 1988, Peru has registered a 900-percent increase in the cost of living. According to official figures, the October inflation rate has been estimated at 37-percent as compared to a 114.1-percent inflation rate for September.

Bomb Explosion Injures 26 in Ayacucho Dance Hall
PY3110214888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1847 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Lima, 31 Oct (EFE)—Twenty-six people, four of whom are policemen, were injured in a bomb explosion that occurred before dawn on 30 October. The bomb was placed in a dance hall in Ayacucho, a city located south of Lima.

The local press today reported that the police have attributed the attack to terrorists who used a home-made bomb called "Russian Cheese." This bomb is made up of powder, tacks, pieces of iron, and steel wire. It explodes when it touches the floor.

Ayacucho was the site of a similar explosion on 3 July when several unidentified people hurled explosives at a dance hall where the music group "Los Shapis" was playing. The "Los Shapis" music group has received death threats from the "Shining Path" guerrilla group because the latter believes "Los Shapis" play alienating music.

According to police sources, the "Shining Path," which began its activities in Ayacucho in May 1980, is responsible for the death of about 12,000 people and material losses estimated at $10 billion.

Uruguay

Sanguinetti To Hold Trade Talks in Beijing
PY0111013488 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] President Julio Maria Sanguinetti will go to Beijing tomorrow. Dr Julio Maria Sanguinetti, along with the foreign minister and the economy minister, will attempt to increase trade between the two countries.

President Views Foreign Debt, L.A. Problems
PA2910184788 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 Oct 88 pp 1, 10-a-12-a, 16-a

[Report on "exclusive" EXCELSIOR interview with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 24 October]

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 24 October—Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti told EXCELSIOR: "We undoubtedly will have to pay a steep political price if the present commercial and foreign debt instability continues." He noted: "Economic and social injustices have been the root of all wars," and, therefore, "statements are not enough." He asserted: "A political plan must be devised" for "a negotiation that is not passive [bucolica]," because "the clashes that ensue are detrimental to Latin America."

On the foreign debt, Julio Maria Sanguinetti said that the Group of Eight meeting—which he is to host in Punta del Este—will not change "the position taken in Acapulco," and that the "political discussion on the steps to be taken to attain the goals set in Acapulco" will be continued. He added that "progress has been made in solving the foreign debt problem, but this is not enough." He said: "It is clear that the foreign debt and the international trade imbalance are contributing to a very difficult situation."

Sanguinetti said in his exclusive interview with EXCELSIOR that "the great debate at the turn of the century will focus on how to achieve a market that is more open, more understandable, and more honest for everyone concerned." He added that "debt problems could be more easily managed if international commerce were conducted normally and stably."

"We must not think that Latin American integration is only a theory and that it will take forever to attain, or that in two or three meetings of this kind we will be able to solve problems that have been with us since colonial times," he said. However, he added: "It is possible to coordinate our policies coherently and not continue to perpetuate the behavior witnessed over the past decades when each country acted on its own and Latin America did not have a political presence or voice on the international scene." [passage omitted]

Mexico's De la Madrid Addresses General Assembly
PA3010134888 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 26 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by Francisco Ramirez R.]

[Text] Montevideo, 25 Oct—Mexico has proposed that the international creditor banks restructure the developing countries' long-term foreign debt and has called for a significant reduction of the cost of the debt and a satisfactory resumption of credit flow.

It is unthinkable to face up to the debt unless growth is encouraged; for this reason, servicing of the debt will have to be linked to real payment ability, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado said in addressing the Uruguayan General Assembly in the Legislative Palace in Montevideo.

The Mexican chief of state stated at that forum: "Our peoples must not be burdened with and condemned to a lifetime sentence of unilateral adjustments that frustrate their legitimate demand for development and social welfare."

Adjustments, he said, require equality [simetria] and shared responsibility by the countries that have accumulated the greatest volume of wealth. He rejected as unacceptable a system in which the harshest effects fall on the developing countries.

The president described as perverse the phenomenon in which the developing countries deplete their capital by transferring huge amounts of resources to creditors. This drain, he said, deteriorates the quality of life of societies, prevents them from returning to the path of growth, and above all, keeps the region's structures from being viable.

In the wake of the great recessive adjustments that the debtor countries have made, the president said, it is now up to the industrialized countries to play a key role in overcoming the Third World's serious crisis. He warned the industrialized countries that while they have so far managed to avoid the most negative effects of the international problem, they will be affected in the end.

De la Madrid proposed strengthening the multilateral negotiating system, while avoiding the practice of unilateral approaches in world trade or a demand for bilateral negotiations that diminish the exporting potential of developing nations.

What is required, he said, are expansionist policies on the part of the world's richest countries, a drastic reduction in protectionism, a lowering of interest rates, and monetary and exchange reforms.

De la Madrid said Latin America's options for progress are based on the real possibility of an authentic alliance. "While geography has made us distant brothers," he said, "history, culture, and tradition have made us friends; the economy should make us partners; and need has made us allies."

Turning to the Central American conflict, De la Madrid said it is a threat to peace and true security in Latin America. There is a risk, he said, that the objectives of democratic development in that area may be subordinated to strategic concepts that reflect the interests of a single nation. Therefore, he said, Mexico will persist to the limit of its abilities in its efforts to avoid war and foreign interventions through the use of diplomatic persuasion.

Participation in UNITAS Excercises Authorized

PY2810023988 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] The president of the Republic has promulgated the law that authorizes the Uruguayan Navy to participate in the UNITAS-29 naval exercises.

During a meeting with the national defense minister in Punta del Este, the president decided that the "18 de Julio" destroyer and a Naval aviation aircraft will participated in the naval exercises outside jurisdictional waters.

Venezuela

Lusinchi: Coup Rumors 'Have No Basis in Truth'

PA0111021388 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] President Jaime Lusinchi has attributed the transfer of armored vehicles and soldiers to La Vineta presidential residence to a distortion of the electoral process and to some people's manipulation of the situation.

The president reiterated that a call made to the 44th Command at Fort Triuna in the name of a high-ranking military officer led the duty officer to order the mobilization of troops. He added that the rumors that have been circulating have no basis in truth.

[Begin Lusinchi recording] There is nothing to prevent anyone who attempts a coup d'etat here from being punished under the law; however, in this instance, there are no signs of an alleged coup d'etat. Moreover, the manner in which the events transpired shows no sign of any offensive reason behind the movement of those troops and armored vehicles. There is no such indication. There was simply speculation on the part of people who are trying to interpret things in their own way and on the part of those who have made and are making those calls.

We are concerned here—and of course, we will act accordingly—about the fate of the officer [not further identified], and there should also be concern for the fate of those we catch making such calls, because we are going to punish them as they deserve. [end recording]

President Jaime Lusinchi also ordered a summary investigation to establish as clearly as possible the true nature of the incidents in Paez, Apure State, where some 14 people lost their lives.

This information was provided to VENPRESS by Interior Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi when newsmen asked him about the events on the border. Minister Consalvi added that the chief of state will give a report to the country as soon as all the data resulting from the investigation are available.

Security Forces, 'Colombian Guerrillas' Clash

PA3010033488 Paris AFP in Spanish 0222 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] San Cristobal, Venezuela, 29 Oct (AFP)—It was reported tonight that 16 alleged Colombian guerrillas were killed today in a clash with Venezuelan Army and police troops.

General Humberto Camejo Arias, head of the area anti-kidnapping unit, said the guerrillas also planned to kidnap five ranchers. The anti-kidnapping unit concentrates its

efforts in the Arauca region and Paez District in Apure State because the presence of rebels and cattle rustlers from the other side of the border makes it a "red zone."

The 16 alleged guerrillas were killed in the Guasica area, Paez District, approximately 600 km southeast of Caracas. The Venezuelan troops were supported by Brazilan-made Tucano planes modified for action in wooded areas.

The military officer reported that 10 alleged guerrillas fled the area. The local news agency, INNAC, reported that Camejo Arias believes the guerrillas belong to the Colombian ELN [Army of National Liberation], which has attacked Colombian installations.

The invaders entered Venezuelan territory by crossing the Arauca River, which delimits the Colombian-Venezuelan border. The invaders used "bongos," very fast boats that can hold as many as 30 men.

The invaders crossed the river and, after passing a small lagoon, entered "Las Coloradas" cattle ranch, approximately 400 meters from the river.

Camejo Arias stated that the Venezuelan forces' "defensive action" lasted approximately 40 minutes and that it was intense: Two alleged rebels were killed in a bongo, two died in the water, and the other twelve were killed on land, very near one another.

The officer reported that maps indicating the actions they were going to carry out were found on the men's bodies. They were going to blow up Venezuelan petroleum installations operated by Corpoven, a subsidiary of government-owned Venezuelan Petroleum Inc. They were also going to kidnap five area cattlemen.

The following war materiel was seized: Machineguns, various weapons, three sticks of TNT, four nonelectric detonators, chemical explosives, seven high-powered grenades, and a speed boat.

This is the third lethal action against alleged Colombian rebels that the Venezuelan forces have been involved in this year.

The anti-kidnapping unit headed by Camejo Arias started operating in the latter part of 1987. It is composed of troops from the Army, political police (DISIP), and militarized police (National Guard.)

Town Protects 2 Survivors

PA3110033788 Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] El Amparo, Venezuela, 30 Oct (AFP)—Residents of El Amparo, a town 600 km southwest of Caracas near the Colombian border, are protecting two survivors of Saturday's attack on alleged Colombian guerrillas by members of the Venezuelan Armed Forces, according to a report filed yesterday by INNAC, the local news agency.

According to reports, the townspeople stood guard in front of the police station to prevent the transfer of the two survivors to a different location.

After Saturday's attack at the lagoon at the end of La Colorada stream, the corpses of 14 alleged guerrillas were transferred to San Cristobal, the capital city of neighboring Tachira State.

The Venezuelan authorities said there were 16 victims, but two of them, who disappeared when they fell into the river, managed to save themselves and are believed to be in El Amparo Prison, according to various reports.

Meanwhile, there is growing uncertainty regarding the likelihood that, through a tragic error, the authorities might have mistaken local fishermen for guerrillas, or that the fishermen might have perished after being caught in a cross fire.

INNAC reported that "there have been tense hours in El Amparo since the incident was reported, and several heads of family have not returned home since yesterday."

AFP was informed that Colombian radio station RCN, monitored in San Cristobal, reported in a dispatch sent from El Amparo that all the victims are believed to be peaceful fishermen.

Guyana

Hoyte Accuses Opposition Union of Vandalism

FL2810225888 Bridgetown CANA in English 2201 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 28, CANA—Guyana's President Desmond Hoyte Thursday night has accused political opponents here of vandalising the important sugar sector, with the intention of scuttling government's recently announced economic recovery programme.

Hoyte spoke of strikes "for political reason" in the sugar belt and at the recent alleged arson of large acreages of sugar cane. "Anyone who sets out deliberately to disrupt production (in the key sectors of the economy) at this time is not only a subversive, but a criminal and has to be treated as such," Hoyte declared in an address to the 18th biennial delegates conference of the country's oldest trade union, the Guyana Labour Union (GLU) of which he is the president general.

The government has pointedly blamed the opposition Marxist Leninist People's Progressive Party (PPP) and its trade union affiliate, the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) the country's numerically strongest union for recent disruption in the sugar belt—charges denied by both organizations.

The PPP and GAWU are currently engaged in an anti-IMF campaign here, protesting an imminent arrangement between Guyana and the International Monetary

Fund (IMF). Hoyte, accusing "the union of being involved in advancing spurious reasons" and of "ridiculous and irresponsible" behavior, also issued what is being seen here as a thinly veiled warning that the state-run Guyana Sugar Corporation might opt out of its recognition agreement with GAWU.

"When a trade union behaves in such an irresponsible manner in breach of its collective agreements, then the employer is put in a strong position where he can justifiably withdraw from the recognition agreement" Hoyte told the packed auditorium at the Sophia Convention Centre. And, contending that "the objective of the acts of arson and vandalism on the sugar estates is to prevent the government from proceeding with its economic recovery programme," Hoyte said his government has no intention, whatsoever, of abandoning its programme.

"An important component of the programme is an arrangement with the IMF. Government is committed to such an arrangement and nothing and nobody will prevent the government from proceeding with that arrangement," Hoyte added.

He said that while those who are opposed to the government's programme have the democratic right to oppose and to stage demonstrations and picket peacefully in accordance with the law, they have no right to engage in deliberate sabotage of the economy, to threaten and coerce workers, to commit acts of arson and vandalism, and destroy the property of the people.

Trade unionism in Guyana is at the crossroads, Hoyte said, and the unions should not behave as if they are "functioning in a colonial polity" or "spend their time, energy and other resources in a futile pursuit of the shadow rather than the substance of militancy."

Suriname

Purchase of Brazilian Military Equipment Denied

FL2910132788 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1300 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Surinamese military commander Desi Bouterse denies that he ordered military equipment from Brazil on his trip there. He was responding to Brazilian authorities who (?had) not denied rumors that they had sold Mr Bouterse 30 million dollars worth of equipment [sentence as heard].

Mr Bouterse referred to his arrest in Brazil as an unpleasant incident. He received apologies from officials there for the arrest.